



Celebrate the Winter Games in Victoria at *Livingcolours 2010 Spirit Spectacular!*

Date: Friday, February 5, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Looking for something to do to celebrate the spirit of the Winter Games close to home? Bring friends and family to ***Livingcolours 2010 Spirit Spectacular***, a three-day festival featuring exciting events, sports activities and live performances during the opening weekend of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games, Friday, February 12 to Sunday, February 14 in Spirit Square, next to Victoria City Hall. Events will occur rain or shine with many activities taking place under heated tents. A variety of food and beverages will be available on site. Admission is free.

Friday, February 12 – Olympic Opening Celebration:

The fun begins next Friday at 5:30 p.m. with a festive celebration featuring CTV's LIVE coverage of the Olympic Opening Ceremonies on a giant screen. Enjoy the 'Cirque'-style atmosphere, complete with roving performers and costumed fantasy characters. Wear red and white and visit our interactive Canadian Pavilion and Kids Zone, or relax with friends and enjoy a beverage in the Spirit Lounge with a great view of the screen and stage.

Friday's performances will include *Bucan Bucan* (pronounced *booCHAN booCHAN*), a 13-piece 'gypsy' brass band with creative elements of dance, costume and audience interaction. An exciting fire performance by the *Poi Pixies'* Fyre and Lyte will provide a thrilling finale to the evening.

Saturday, February 13 – Fun and (2010 Winter) Games:

On Saturday from noon to 4 p.m., the focus will be on active fun, with the addition of many demonstrations and activities including the UVIC Ski and Snowboarding Club's *Rail Jam* snowboard demo, and salsa dancing by *Caliente Dance Co.* Families can participate in *Wii* sport games, activities and giveaways. Live music on stage will include the toe-tapping, bluegrass group *Rock Island Ramblers*, as well as the critically acclaimed contemporary folk group *Outlaw Social*.

Celebrate the season and treat yourself to *Love, Poetry and Chocolate: Running on Love – Lyrics for the Human Race*, from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at City Hall. Enjoy an afternoon of poetry and song with Poet Laureate Linda Rogers, poets Susan Stenson, John Barton, Tim Lilburn, poet/songwriters Janet Rogers and Rick van Krugel, singer/songwriter Ivan Doroschuk, and special guest artist Dale Roberts (Mailarta). Mail in a Valentine's poem before next Friday and have it displayed or read by Mailarta at the event. Valentine poems can be mailed to Studio J, 1324 Broad Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2A9.

Roving performers, magicians, jugglers, stiltwalkers and giant puppets add to Saturday's fun, with plenty to do and see in the Canadian Pavilion, Kids Zone, *livingcolours* LEGO City and other festival attractions.

Sunday, February 14 - Year of the Tiger Fun:

Join us Sunday for the start of Chinese New Year, with beautiful Chinese dance performances by the Ocean Rain Chinese Arts Academy, and an opportunity for people to make their own Chinese lantern and tiger mask. The community is invited to participate in a large Tiger lantern designed by artist Jennifer Witvliet, a community art project that will be presented to the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. Treats, giveaways, tastings, and the Canadian Pavilion, Kids Zone, *livingcolours* LEGO City and other festival attractions, are all part of the fun from noon to 4 p.m.

(Note: The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association's annual traditional Chinese New Year Celebration and Lion Dance will take place on Sunday, February 21.)

Join us for a weekend that promises to be spectacular in every way! ***Livingcolours 2010 Spirit Spectacular*** is presented by the City of Victoria in cooperation with the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee.

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

To arrange interviews with performers, participants and artists, please contact Alice Bacon at 250.216.2704.

ATTACHED: Photos of *Outlaw Social*, *Poi Pixies*, and *Bucan Bucan*; Performer Biographies; and Performance Schedule

For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca/livingcolours

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Please consider for event and calendar listings.

For More Information:

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