



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 18, 2009

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Edgewater Casino CelticFest Vancouver 2009 Celebrates Its Success As Another Great Year Wraps Up

One of Vancouver's most popular annual entertainment events has wrapped up for a sixth great year, with sold-out events, artistic excellence and exhilarating experiences for thousands of Lower Mainland patrons and participants.

For five action-packed days from **March 11 to 15**, the **6th Annual Edgewater Casino CelticFest Vancouver** brought visitors and locals together for an extraordinary display of Celtic performance and culture. The popular annual festival was presented by **CelticFest Vancouver Society** and featured hundreds of gifted performing artists from around the world and at home, with more than 60 events at ten popular venues and two outdoor stages in downtown Vancouver.

Several events drew capacity crowds, including; the ever-popular **Whisky Kiss** Scotch Tasting and the musical fusion event **CelticSalsa: Celts and Cubans United!** That concert's match-up of longtime Vancouver fan favourites **The Paperboys** with the smouldering Cuban-Canadian group **Puro Son** was inspired programming, with both the musicians themselves and event patrons blown away by the exciting new sound. Other festival highlights included the thrilling **BIG St. Pat's Night Out!** at the Vogue Theatre which sizzled with performances by internationally famed fiddler **Ashley MacIsaac** accompanied by young BC fiddling prodigy **Quinn Bachand** along with the Irish supergroup **Lúnasa**. Festival Host Irish-American comedian **Maureen Langan** started off the night with a bang with a hilarious comedy spot. And this year's edition of the high-spirited literary pub-crawl, the **Battle of the Bards**, rose to new heights of riotous wordsmithing.

Over two-thirds of all Festival events were free and the most popular FREE event, the **6th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade** drew thousands of people to the downtown core. Even the challenging weather on Sunday couldn't keep volunteers and fans down as the Parade rolled out with its trademark colour, sound and excitement, thrilling the spectators who turned out to watch the spectacle. The Parade included pipers, drummers, Celtic music and dance groups, the Vancouver police and fire brigades, medieval players, collector cars and multicultural organizations that wowed both children and adults alike.

CelticFest On Hiatus in 2010

The organizers of CelticFest have decided that the much-loved annual Celtic celebration will take a one-year hiatus in 2010. The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games will place extreme pressure on the availability of downtown performance venues and the community's volunteer pool, and given those challenges the decision has been taken not to stage the festival next year. However CelticFest plans to be back the following year from **March 16-20, 2011**, with most major sponsors already committed to return and a bigger lineup than ever. **So see you in 2011!**

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