



MEDIA RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT: Two Dramatic Photo Opportunities at the 6th Annual Edgewater Casino CelticFest Vancouver 2009

March 11 – 15, 2009

Kinship! Come Together for a Celebration of Celtic Culture

ATTENTION: NEWS AND PHOTO EDITORS

Vancouver, BC – It's a Celtic celebration in the streets and in the skies! Full-dress Celtic warriors and the BC Regiment Irish Pipes and Drums will march through the streets of Vancouver **just before lunchtime on Wednesday, March 11** as a dramatic kick-off to the city's immensely popular annual **Edgewater Casino CelticFest Vancouver**. And four days later, at **noon on Sunday, March 15** a Canadian military surveillance aircraft usually assigned to patrol the coast of BC will perform a thrilling low-altitude flyby over the centre of the city, just after the 6th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade gets underway.

These two colourful events will be major highlights during the opening and closing days of this year's CelticFest celebrations. Here are the details:

Photo opportunity #1: CelticFest Opening Day Street Event

When: 11:30 am, Wednesday March 11

Where: Beginning at Waterfront Station (601 West Cordova Street) then proceeding west on Cordova Street to the Plaza at Granville Square, 200 Granville St. @ Cordova.

Participants:

- **BC Regiment Irish Pipes & Drums**, with champion Belfast piper **Andrew Carlisle** and Vancouver piper **Jordan Seguin**, the youngest pipe major in a military band in the British Commonwealth
- A contingent of full-dress **Celtic Warriors** - the **Brave Heart Celtic Warriors**
- A contingent of **The Medieval Society** in medieval costumes (Society for Creative Anacronism)
- Culmination of the event: A **free lunchtime concert** (starts at 12 noon) on the Plaza at Granville Square, 200 Granville St. @ Cordova. Featured performers are **The Splinters**, whose music explores a wide range of music from classical to Celtic, rock, pop, country, folk and bluegrass. Come on down and help kick-start the festival at this free event! The Granville Square Plaza Music Stage is sponsored by Cadillac Fairview.

Photo opportunity #2: Military Aircraft Fly-By Over Downtown Vancouver and the 6th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

When: (approximately) 12:00 noon, Sunday March 15

Where: Over the St. Patrick's Day Parade route (Georgia Street between Broughton & Howe)
Aircraft/activity: A Canadian Air Force **CP 140 Aurora, Canada's only strategic maritime surveillance aircraft** originating from the Comox 407 Squadron will be flying low over Howe Street on the Parade route.

Parade Route: The parade begins at Georgia Street & Broughton @ 11:30am and marches east along Georgia to Howe Street, ending next to the Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza (*note: new route for 2009*)

More on the St. Patrick's Day Parade: The 6th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on **Sunday, March 15**, kicking off at **11:30 am** at the corner of Georgia and Broughton in downtown Vancouver. It's estimated that 300,000 people will turn out to see almost 100 parade entries. Approximately 2,000 participants will take to the streets, including international award-winning pipe and drum bands, marching Colour Guard, Celtic music and dance groups, the Vancouver police motorcycle drill team and fire brigades, acrobats, stilt walkers, rare, vintage cars, Irish & Scottish youth dance and music groups, multicultural organizations, distinguished local guests and much more. The parade's presenting sponsor is the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association.

For more festival and parade information & to purchase event tickets, **visit the festival website** at www.celticfestvancouver.com Tickets can also be purchased through **Tickets Tonight** at **604.684.2787**. Tickets for The BIG St. Pat's Night Out! (Vogue Theatre) with Ashley MacIsaac, Lúnasa and Maureen Langan are available through Ticketmaster at **604.280.4444** as well as at www.celticfestvancouver.com

Festival Program Guides are available at most 7-Eleven outlets throughout the Lower Mainland and at participating CelticFest venues.

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