

# Connecting & Celebrating

Sisters of St. Ann  
celebrate 150 years  
in British Columbia

PCC's National Historic Site  
home to early education, health care





## Landing re-enactment draws colourful, enthusiastic crowd

A colorful re-enactment of the June 8, 1858 arrival of the Sisters of St. Ann to Victoria drew an enthusiastic crowd into the Inner Harbour 150 years after the historic landing. Townsfolk in period dress, including Sir James Douglas, Bishop Modeste Demers, Dr. J.S. Helmcken and his wife Cecilia Douglas were on hand to welcome the four Sisters and their accompanying lay helper to Fort Victoria. The procession made its way from the lower causeway to the original log cabin school used by the Sisters and now located on the grounds of the Royal BC Museum. The group then walked to St. Ann's Academy National Historic Site for welcoming addresses.

*Pictured, previous page: Drama students from St. Andrew's High School portray the Sisters' arrival at Fort Victoria; Provincial Leader Sister Marie Zarowny; Brad Poulsen and Kaitlin Williams of the Legislature's Parliamentary Players as Governor James Douglas and his eldest daughter, Cecilia Helmcken; PCC Chair Bill Wellburn and CEO Ray Parks join the group on the steps of St. Ann's Academy. This page, from top: Rebecca Putters as Sister Mary of the Conception; Bishop Emeritus Remi de Roo takes the role of Bishop Modeste Demers for the service of thanksgiving in the historic St. Ann's chapel; re-enactment in front of original school.*





## Former PM, symphony concert highlights of St. Ann's 150th

The arrival of the Sisters of St. Ann into Victoria Harbour 150 years ago and their subsequent contribution to education and health care in British Columbia was cause for celebration at a number of special events June 5-8, 2008 marking the historic anniversary.

Weekend festivities included a concert by Victoria Symphony on the grounds of St. Ann's Academy National Historic Site, a family picnic and historic walking tours.

Alumni and friends joined the Sisters

of St. Ann who gathered in Victoria from around the world at a memorable gala dinner featuring keynote speaker Kim Campbell. The former Prime Minister of Canada spoke about her time as a St. Ann's student. "It opened up so many new vistas for me and was a source of stability at a difficult time in my life," she said.

Remembering her former teachers with fondness, Campbell painted a warm and humorous picture of boarding life at the academy. Proceeds from the dinner went towards the University of Victoria Endowment Fund for bursary and scholarship programs in the School of Nursing and Faculty of Education.

The Provincial Capital Commission manages St. Ann's Academy on behalf of the Province of British Columbia.

*Clockwise from top: Victoria Symphony concert on grounds of St. Ann's Academy; Sister Lucy Dumont; St. Ann's Academy program coordinator Shelley Myhres dons habit and tries her hand at croquet. At left: former Prime Minister Kim Campbell chats to Rick Crosby, Bill Wellburn and Denis Johnston of the PCC.*

