



# Press Release

## PORT COQUITLAM MAY DAY PLANNING TEAM INVITES WILD CARD APPLICATIONS FOR 2009 MAY DAY ROYAL PARTY

**January 20, 2009 - Port Coquitlam, BC ...** 2009 marks the 86<sup>th</sup> annual Port Coquitlam's May Day celebration and once again the Planning Team is accepting Wild Card applications for the 2009 May Day Royal Party. The Wild Card selection offers opportunity for the 'royal' May Day experience to Port Coquitlam children that are either home schooled or who do not attend a local participating school.

To be eligible for the Wild Card selection, children must currently reside in Port Coquitlam or attend a school in Port Coquitlam that does not already select a May Day Royal Party representative. In addition children must meet the age requirements for their respective categories. Girls in Grade 1 or 2 are eligible to participate as Flower Girls. Girls in Grade 5, 6 or 7 are eligible to participate as Princesses and boys in Grade 5, 6 or 7 may participate as Lancers.

Applications for the Wild Card selection are available from the Port Coquitlam Recreation Complex at 2150 Wilson Avenue or downloaded from the City's website at [www.portcoquitlam.ca/mayday](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/mayday). There is no application or registration fee, however children selected as members of the Royal Party will be required to purchase the materials necessary for their May Day outfits. Completed applications must be received at the Recreation Complex by 4 pm on Friday, Feb. 8 to be included in the random selection draw. Only those selected will be contacted.

Most local elementary and middle schools participate in the City's annual May Day festivities. Port Coquitlam children who attend participating schools and who are interested in having their name submitted for a chance to be selected for the May Day Royal Party must do so through their school. **The Wild Card spots are not intended to replace the existing school system of recruitment but to complement it and provide equal access to all eligible children who wish to be a part of this long standing tradition.**

Port Coquitlam's first official community May Day was held in 1923 and Miss Evelyn Mars was crowned as the City's first official May Queen. During our modern-day celebrations the Royal Party, led by a May Queen and Ambassador, preside over the week-long festivities and many of the other City of Port Coquitlam events. Members of the Royal Party are presented at the Opening Ceremonies where they perform specially choreographed dances. In addition to participating in the May Day Opening Ceremonies, members of the Royal Party also accompany the City's float during the May Day Grande Parade and attend a reception in their honour.

For additional information on Port Coquitlam's May Day celebrations, visit [www.portcoquitlam.ca/mayday](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/mayday) or contact Sandra Battle, Program Coordinator, at 604.927.7935 or [battles@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:battles@portcoquitlam.ca).

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**Media contact:**

Sandra Battle  
Program Coordinator, Parks & Recreation Department  
City of Port Coquitlam  
Telephone: 604-927-7935  
[battles@portcoquitlam.ca](mailto:battles@portcoquitlam.ca)  
[www.portcoquitlam.ca](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca)