

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAGAN PRIDE DAY: VICTORIA 2007

Saturday, September 8th, 12-Noon until 9pm

Potluck Feast: 7pm

Goldstream Park, Vancouver Island, (right off Hwy. 1, just west of Langford)

Pagans and Heathens from Victoria, southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands are gathering at Goldstream Park, on September 8th, for Pagan Pride Day. The harvest festival celebrates the religious and cultural diversity of pagan and heathen religions worldwide, and seeks to end religious discrimination and persecution. Helping the less fortunate is also a priority, so nonperishable food donations will be collected for the Victoria Food Bank. Pagan Pride Day is an international movement, with events in numerous cities worldwide throughout the month of the fall equinox.

<http://www.paganprideday.org/>

This year, Victoria's Pagan Pride Day event is being organized by the Salt Spring Island based Heathen Freehold Society of BC. The Freehold is the first organization in Canada dedicated to the revival and celebration of the pagan religion of the ancient Nordic tribes. Plans include entertaining Nordic games, folk tales, music and poetry, and a ceremonial potluck feast at 7:00pm. These modern-day Vikings are famous for their hospitality and they're inviting folks of any religion or ethnicity to bring the kids and learn more about Nordic pagan culture. *<http://bc-freehold.org/>*

Dan Ralph Miller, a Freehold trustee, will share the results of two decades of research with the talk "*Family and Tribe in Nordic Paganism,*" as well as leading a traditional toasting ceremony in tribute to the old gods, the land and the ancestors.

Tributes will be made to other traditional cultures including those of the First Nations of North and South America, Europe, Africa, India, Asia and Australia. "All are welcomed", according to Miller, also Victoria Pagan Pride Day spokesman, "We're gathering in the spirit of peace and fellowship. A spirit which respects our differences, celebrates our diversity, and builds upon what all tribal cultures hold in common: the enjoyment of life, a sacred respect for the land, the past of our ancestors and the future of our children."

Miller, a founder of the Freehold Society, is perhaps among the busier Nordic Heathens in B.C., teaching and lecturing on Nordic paganism with a busy year-round schedule all over the southwest coast. He will be speaking at Pagan Pride Day events in Nanaimo on August 25 and in Vancouver on September 30, and also has a hand in organizing the upcoming *2009 Canadian National Pagan Conference* in Vancouver. Miller, a former broadcaster, now lives on Salt Spring Island, and is available for interviews.

Media please contact Dan Miller at (250) 653-4507, or e-mail: contact@bc-freehold.org

EVENT INFORMATION: <http://bc-freehold.org/>