

TOWER'S GLASS FLOOR BY THE NUMBERS

18 panels long | **160** metres above street level | **5** centimetre thick glass



Lorraine Hjalte, Calgary Herald

Wes Steffen of Elkhart, Ind., liked the Calgary Tower's glass observation tower so much he proposed to his girlfriend Laura Evans there on Wednesday. The floor has been named one of the country's top-10 new attractions in *Where* magazine.

Platform makes top-10 attraction list

FALICE CHIN
CALGARY HERALD

At 160 metres above ground level, Wes Steffen fished out a one-carat diamond ring from his pocket.

"Will you marry me?" the 29-year-old asked his girlfriend on the Calgary Tower's glass observation platform Wednesday afternoon.

Laura Evans, 25, was speechless for a moment, but answered "yes" as soon as his words sank in.

"I was going to do it at the Rockies," said Steffen, who de-

ecided at the last minute that the city's famous landmark was just as good, if not better.

"It's nice up here," he said.

Moments earlier, the couple from Elkhart, Ind., were acting just like other tourists, checking out the durability of the tower's glass floor.

"Oh, I'm not really a fan of heights," Evans said, refusing to walk across the glass panel.

The fact the floor is built to withstand a weight of 1,800 kilograms did not calm the American.

For many visitors, the glass platform is what makes Cal-

gary's 190-metre-tall tower special. Now, the platform has been named one of Canada's top-10 new attractions by *Where* travel magazine.

"I feel very honoured," said Calgary Tower president Don Dempson.

"There's a lot of excellent choices out there in Calgary and Canada. To be chosen for top 10 is just outstanding for us."

Built in 2005, the glass platform attracted 550,000 visitors in its first year.

Dempson anticipates close to one million people will visit the Calgary Tower in 2007.

The other nine top new attractions named by *Where*, whose publisher says can be found in 3,500 hotels around the world, are located at: Victoria's Crystal Garden, Banff's Blue Canoe rental concession, Halifax's military garrison, Edmonton's Fort Edmonton Park, Winnipeg's Fort Gibraltar historic site, Ottawa's Library of Parliament, Toronto's Gardiner Museum, the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre in Gravenhurst, Ont., and the Vancouver Aquarium.