



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

2011 FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR: MORE SHOWS, MORE ACTIVITIES, MORE VARIETY!

ST.BONIFACE, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2011 – This morning at Fort Gibraltar, the Festival du Voyageur revealed its complete programming for the 42nd edition of the festival to be held from February 18th to 27th, 2011. Presenting more than 210 shows in 10 days, the 2011 Festival du Voyageur looks very promising!

A BUSTLING OPENING NIGHT

Festivities start February 18, 2011 at Voyageur Park at 5 p.m. and at Relais du Voyageur (Centre culturel franco-manitobain) at 6 p.m. The **Torch Light Walk** starts at The Forks at 5 p.m. and will proceed to Voyageur Park for the opening ceremonies at 6:30 p.m. At the Relais du Voyageur, the public is invited to the **Grand Hé Ho!**, a free outside gathering with music, dance, fire and street performers.

MIXING MUSICAL STYLES

In 2011, the Festival has an excellent line-up of traditional bands including **Yves Lambert et le Bébert Orchestra** (ex-member of La Bottine Souriante), **Tradition**, **Grand Dérangement**, **Alain François** and **Genticorum**. Other outstanding francophone artists include **Kain**, **Pépé et sa guitare**, **Tracteur Jack**, **Chinatown** and directly from France, **La Jarry**. Local francophone talent is also featured with bands such as **Ça Claque**, **Justin Lacroix**, **Quadrille** and more. Several anglophone artists will be performing on the Festival du Voyageur stages such as **Jodi King**, **Eagle & Hawk**, **Crooked Brothers**, and the inexhaustible **Al Simmons**. On Louis Riel Day, Metis and Aboriginal artists will be featured including **Tracy Bone**, **Tribe of One** and the **Aboriginal School of Dance**.

THEME NIGHTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Popular theme nights from last year will be back such as **DJ Night** and **Emerging Talent Night**. On February 25th, the **Emerging Talent Night** will present **Les Imposteurs**, **Sons of York**, **Enjoy Your Pumas** and **Inward Eye**. **Cajun Night** presented by Club Regent Casino will welcome **The Pine Leaf Boys**, a band that hails from Louisiana and is nominated for Best Cajun Album at the 2011 Grammy Awards. This event will be held at the Voyageur Trading Post (Centre culturel franco-manitobain) on Thursday, February 24th. **Community lunches** at the Relais du Voyageur are always a hit. Traditional French Canadian food prepared by Garage Café and dynamic musical performances await you from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., February 22nd to February 25th. **The Fiddling and Jigging Contest** is celebrating its 40th anniversary with musical guests **Alex & Patti Lamoureux** and **Ça Claque** on February 26th and 27th. Tickets for the **Yann Perreau** and **Nadia Gaudet** unplugged concert on February 20th are still available at the Festival du Voyageur office.

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AT VOYAGEUR PARK

Once again, Voyageur Park will be filled to the brim with activities for families. **Snowshoe workshops** are one of the most anticipated activities this year. In partnership with Red River Outfitters, the festival will offer snowshoe treks for free during both festival weekends as well as Louis Riel Day! Visitors, young and young at heart, are encouraged to join in! All materials and equipment will be provided. **Fort Gibraltar** will also be open to the public, offering bilingual historical interpretation and challenging visitors to exciting voyageur games! **Kitchen parties** at Fort Gibraltar are also always a highlight of a Voyageur Park visit.

INTERNATIONAL MASTERPIECES

For the **International Snow Sculpting Symposium** presented by Air Canada, 13 snow sculptures produced by international artists will be on exhibit. Teams from France, Holland, Spain and Mexico will be amongst the contestants. The **Community Snow Sculpting Contest** is also back with ten local teams presenting their work at Voyageur Park. Over the last few weeks, other sculptures have been completed around the City of Winnipeg.

THE PARTY GOES ON AT THE TRADING POSTS

Visitors will find the warm Festival du Voyageur atmosphere at 8 off-site venues (Trading Posts) offering special programming during Festival du Voyageur. Festival-goers are encouraged to visit the Voyageur Trading Post (CCFM), King's Head Pub, Auberge du Violon, Relais des pionniers, Club Regent Casino, Club St-B., Garage Café , and La Broquerie Hotel.

PASSES AND NEW GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

Voyageur Buttons (10-day pass) are priced at \$22, daily adult passes are \$13 and children's buttons (6 to 17 years old) are \$5. The 2011 official guide is now offered in a new and improved format. Passes and guides are now available at Safeway and Giant Tiger stores and at the Festival du Voyageur office located at 233, Provencher Blvd.

For the latest updates and complete programming, please visit our website at www.festivalvoyageur.mb.ca. Festival du Voyageur is also on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/festivalduvoyageur> and on Twitter <http://www.twitter.com/FDVoyageur> or the official hashtag #FDV2011.

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Source:

Irina Ivanov Bissonnette
Communications Assistant
237-7692 ext.238

iivanov@festivalvoyageur.mb.ca

To coordinate an interview, please contact :

Stéphane Oystryk
Marketing Assistant
237-7692 ext. 252

soystryk@festivalvoyageur.mb.ca