



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

THIS WEEKEND AT FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR

ST.BONIFACE, February 17th, 2011 – The 42nd edition of the Festival du Voyageur officially begins tomorrow and runs until February 27th! Here is a summary of what's happening on the first weekend of the festival.

ONE OPENING NIGHT, TWO PLACES TO PARTY

To kick off the party, two options are offered to the public. First, the **Torch Light Walk** presented by Manitoba Hydro will depart from The Forks Historic Port at 5 p.m. and will make its way to Voyageur Park where the official **Opening ceremonies** will take place at 6:30 p.m. The other option, **Le Grand Hé Ho!** presented by Radio-Canada and Productions Rivard, will be held at the Voyageur Trading Post (Centre culturel franco-manitobain) at 6 pm. The outdoor party will feature a bar, DJ, campfire, buskers and more.

VOYAGEUR PARK, THE MAIN SITE

There are plenty of activities for everyone at Voyageur Park. Admire the many snow sculptures of the Snow Sculpting Symposium presented by Air Canada, visit Fort Gibraltar to learn about voyageurs and take part in a real kitchen party, taste the maple taffy in the Sugar Shack tent presented by Caisse Financial Group and enjoy a glass of caribou, our traditional drink, in the Snow Bar. A great lineup of artists will be playing at Voyageur Park this weekend such as **Hadley Castille, Jodi King, Don Amero, and Andrew Neville and the Poor Choices**. As for children's entertainment, **Al Simmons, Alphabet Soup and Jester & The Gypsy** will be performing in the Poste La Prairie tent. Young and young at heart can also venture into the snow maze presented by La Farge, take a trip down one of our slides, conquer the snow mountain or try snowshoeing for the first time at Voyageur Park.

LOUIS RIEL DAY AT THE PARK

Voyageur Park is the place to be on Louis Riel Day! Open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., the park will feature special Aboriginal and Métis programming that will include artists such as **Tribe of One, Asham Stompers** and the **Aboriginal School of Dance**. Many workshops will be taking place throughout the day such as sash waving, métis beading, storytelling and more. The Festival du Voyageur is also proud to welcome the stars of **Disney On Ice**, in the Poste La Prairie tent from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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BUSY WEEKEND AT THE VOYAGEUR TRADING POST

The Voyageur Trading Post (Centre culturel franco-manitobain) is one of the eight Trading Posts or sites affiliated with the Festival du Voyageur. The CCFM will feature **Ça Claque!**, **The F-Holes** and the **Air Command Band** on Friday, February 18th. On Saturday, the traditional songster **Alain François** and Manitoban band **Eagle & Hawk** will be taking the stage. For the complete schedule of the Trading Posts, visit our website or browse our official guide.

For more information regarding Festival du Voyageur, check out our website at www.festivalvoyageur.mb.ca or contact the info-hotline at 233-ALLÔ (2556). Like our Facebook Page located at www.facebook.com/festivalduvoyageur and follow our Twitter [@FDVoyageur](https://twitter.com/FDVoyageur) to get the latest news about Festival and access to exclusive contests.

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