



**PRESS RELEASE**  
*For immediate release*

## A SUCCESSFUL 43<sup>rd</sup> EDITION FOR FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR!

**ST.BONIFACE, February 27, 2012** – The 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Festival du Voyageur officially came to an end, Sunday, February 26, 2012. Although the final numbers are not available yet, it seems that the 2012 edition of Festival du Voyageur attracted a record-breaking number of visitors, thanks in part to mild weather and diverse programming!

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 43<sup>rd</sup> EDITION

Thousands of festival goers visited Voyageur Park and participated in the many events offered at our official sites. Among the major events that marked the Festival this year, the new **Opening Celebration** at Voyageur Park, **Men in Kilts'** comeback at the Voyageur Trading Post, the first **Louis Riel Look-Alike Contest**, the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Beard Growing Contest**, the **Mascot Challenge**, the **Canot theme night**, **Rendez-Vous Des Chefs** and many shows in the official sites throughout the 10-day celebration will be remembered by our visitors.

"The 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of Festival du Voyageur was a huge success! Voyageur Park was full of visitors and our official sites had excellent participation as well. In addition to great programming focused on discovery, our visitors were entertained by our special events where participation was on the rise." said Ginette Lavack Walters, Executive Director of Festival du Voyageur. "On behalf of the entire team of Festival du Voyageur and our Board of Directors, we would like to thank visitors from Winnipeg, Manitoba and elsewhere who proved once again that winter and French heritage are worth celebrating."

At the Bal du Gouverneur on February 18<sup>th</sup>, Festival du Voyageur received the Award of Excellence - Promotion of Linguistic Duality from the Commissioner of Official Languages. On the same night, the honourific capot was awarded to Estelle Soulodre. The long-time Festival du Voyageur volunteer is well-known in the community for her generosity, dedication and infectious smile.

### THE WINNERS

The awaited **Louis Riel Look-Alike Contest** gathered many people at the Maison du Bourgeois on Monday, February 20 where Jean-Marc Lafond was named the best Louis Riel Look-Alike. The Voyageur Trading Post was also at capacity for the 30<sup>th</sup> **Beard Growing Contest** on February 24<sup>th</sup>. For the **Festival** category, where all participants were shaven on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Michel Dion was awarded the first place, in the **Novelty** category, Robert Laferrière received the grand prize and for the **Voyageur** category (wild and wooly), David Pierrard came in first place. Nico Wlock from CBC was the winner for the **Media** category. The event raised more than 4,600 \$ towards the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. As for the **Rendez-vous des chefs** (Pea Soup Competition), Resto Gare won the title of the best pea soup as voted by the public.

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The winners of the **Fiddling Contest** were: in the 7 years old and under category, Logan Baker, in the 8-10 years old category, River Sawchyn, in the 11-13 years old category, Emily Green, in the 14-17 years old category, Véronique Demers, in the 60+ category, Henri Hince and in the open championship category, Jane Cory. In the **Jigging Contest** the winners were: in the 9 years old and under competition, Luc Wrigley, in the 10-13 years old category, Sara Lambert and in the open championship category, Ryan Richard.

The Bal du Gouverneur's door prize, a trip for two to Churchill presented by Calm Air and North Star Tours, was won by Ashlee Hayes. The winner of the Fill & Win contest is Armand Julien and the lucky winner of a trip anywhere Air Canada flies is Luc Boulet. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out our survey at the 233-ALLÔ Info Centre.

Festival du Voyageur's staff would like to thank its volunteers, sponsors, partners and many visitors who made the 10-day festival a resounding success. We hope to see you next year for the 44<sup>th</sup> Festival du Voyageur from February 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

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