



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR ANNOUNCES LINE-UP FOR ITS 43RD EDITION

ST.BONIFACE, JANUARY 17th, 2012 – Festival du Voyageur presented this morning at Fort Gibraltar the programming for its 43rd edition taking place from **February 17 to 26, 2012**. With the tagline « Vive le Festival! », this edition of Festival du Voyageur combines traditions with new features that will please both long-time Festival-goers and first-time attendees!

It all starts with **The Torch Light Walk**, a walk illuminated by hundreds of candles and torch lights departing from The Forks at 6 p.m. and will proceed to Voyageur Park. At 7:30 p.m., the new **Opening Celebration** will reignite the voyageurs in all of us with this outdoor show filled with music, dance and fire.

A FOCUS ON MUSIC

This year, Festival du Voyageur presents more than 235 shows on its various stages, representing more than 300 hours of music! Franco-Manitoban acts **Daniel Roa, Fire & Smoke, Oh My Darling, marijosée** and more will be performing this year. **Fred Penner, Little Miss Higgins, Keith & Renee, Sarah MacDougall, DJ Co-op & DJ Hunnicut** are also on the 2012 roster. The band **Men In Kilts** will also be making a comeback for one night only at the Voyageur Trading Post. Festival du Voyageur is proud to welcome from outside of Manitoba: **Bon Débarras, Orange Orange, Jimmy Hunt**, and many more.

LOUIS RIEL DAY: CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY

For Louis Riel Day on February 20th, programming will mainly feature First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal artists such as **Aboriginal School of Dance, Don Amero, and Vince Fontaine : Indian City**. This year, Festival du Voyageur will present its first **Louis-Riel Look-A-Like Contest**, as a panel of experts will determine which contestant has the best Riel inspired look. All throughout the week and especially on Louis Riel Day, a **series of workshops** will be held at Fort Gibraltar with themes such as flint knapping, traditional music, fur trade dances, and coopering.

ENJOY WINTER DELIGHTS IN VOYAGEUR PARK

Enjoy winter to the fullest at Voyageur Park! A large winter playground is open for children including a **snow maze, slides, sleigh rides, voyageur adventures** and more. Adults can participate in one of the many free **snowshoe workshops**, relax at the **Molson Coors Snow Bar**, shop for unique items at the **Souvenir Tent** or learn more about Manitoba's history at Fort Gibraltar.

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MORE SHOWS AT OUR VARIOUS OFFICIAL SITES

Aside from Voyageur Park, nine other official sites offer a special programming as part of Festival du Voyageur. **The Voyageur Trading Post, King's Head Pub, Le Garage, l'Auberge du violon, Club St-B, Pionniers Trading Post, Club Regent Casino, La Broquerie Hotel, and The Fort Garry Hotel** will be open to all those looking to extend the party! The complete programming of our official sites is available on our website at www.heho.ca

COLOURFUL EVENTS

Festival du Voyageur is the host of many entertaining events and one-of-a-kind competitions. **Cajun Night** presented by Club Regent Casino will feature Roddie Romero from Louisiana and musical guests offering the ultimate Cajun experience by paying tribute to the best Louisiana classics. The **Beard Growing Contest** will be celebrating its 30th edition on February 23rd and is still looking for contestants for the Voyageur Beard (wild and woolly) and Novelty (groomed mustache and/or beard) categories. The **Jigging and Fiddling Contests** are also still accepting registrations. For more information, visit our website at www.heho.ca or contact us at 237-7692.

NEW VOYAGEUR PASSES ON SALE NOW

The **10-day Voyageur Pass** gives you access to Voyageur Park and free or discounted admission at all the Festival du Voyageur sites and is now on sale at all Safeway stores across Winnipeg. The adult pass is available for \$22 and the youth pass (6 to 17 years old) is \$7. The pass will no longer be a button, but a new practical format similar to the passes used at ski resorts. For those who are still looking to purchase a button, souvenir buttons will be available at Festival du Voyageur for \$1.

For additional information regarding Festival du Voyageur, visit our website at www.heho.ca, like our [Facebook page](#) or follow our [Twitter account](#).

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Source :

Irina Ivanov Bissonnette, Communications Assistant
(204) 237-7692 ext. 238
iivanov@heho.ca

To coordinate an interview :

Amy Gnutel, Marketing Assistant
(204) 237-7692 ext. 252
agnutel@heho.ca

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