



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

FIRST WEEKEND OF FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR: LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN!

ST.BONIFACE, February 16, 2012 – The 43rd edition of Festival du Voyageur officially starts tomorrow and continues until Sunday, February 26, 2012. The first weekend promises to be very entertaining, with activities for all ages and all tastes!

A NEW OPENING CELEBRATION

Festival du Voyageur starts with a bang on Friday night with **The Torch Light Walk presented by Manitoba Hydro**, 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 presented by Qualico** will kick off officially the 43rd edition with an outdoor show honouring four of the founding nations of Manitoba. Voyageur Park will be open from 5 p.m. to midnight this Friday.

SPECTACULAR MASTERPIECES

The **Air Canada International Snow Sculpting Symposium** presents twelve teams of sculptors from around the world who will exhibit their works of art in Voyageur Park. This weekend, see sculptors from as far away as Denmark, Mexico, Argentina and Finland put final touches to their snow sculptures.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL AT VOYAGEUR PARK

All weekend long, various children shows will be presented in La Prairie Tent such as **Fred Penner, Madame Diva, Jacob Kettner, Damien Lussier** and much more! Voyageur Park also offers a large winter playground including a **snow maze, slides, sleigh rides, voyageur adventures** and more.

For adults, the **Molson Coors Snow Bar** is a Festival du Voyageur staple. This year, the bar is more spacious and hockey games will be broadcasted live on screens inside and outside the tent. As for the **Pambian Tent**, it is open to public with a new concept, showcasing two artists who will share the stage all night.

Don't miss out on the fantastic shows featuring artists from near and far, including **Joseph Edgar** (New Brunswick), **le Bal à l'huile** (Québec), **Little Miss Higgins** (Saskatchewan), **Sarah MacDougall** (Yukon), Radio-Canada's revelation **Jimmy Hunt** (Québec), **The Treble** (Manitoba) and **Daniel Roa** (Manitoba)!

LOUIS RIEL DAY: CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY

Louis Riel Day will celebrate the First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal cultures with varied programming and artists such as **Aboriginal School of Dance, Don Amero**, and **Vince Fontaine : Indian City**. One of the most awaited new events this year will also take place on February 20, the first edition of the **Louis-Riel Look-Alike Contest**. Registrations are still accepted at the Festival du Voyageur office. Various **workshops** will also be held at Fort Gibraltar such as Metis beading, pemmican and Metis storytelling and legends.

OFFICIAL PARTNERS



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ENJOY THE FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE AT ALL OUR OFFICIAL SITES

Aside from Voyageur Park, eight other official sites offer special programming as part of Festival du Voyageur. Some of this weekend's highlights include **Men in Kilts'** comeback on Friday and performances by **DJ Co-op and DJ Hunnicut** on Sunday night at the Voyageur Trading Post (Centre culturel franco-manitobain). Also, the King's Head Pub and Garage Café will present daily late-night shows such as **Dust Rhinos, Les Voyous and Rubber Soul**. L'Auberge du violon will also offer traditional dinners and daily shows, including **Trio Michael Audette, Patti Lamoureux** and others. The **Club St-B, Pionniers Trading Post, Club Regent Casino, and La Broquerie Hotel** will be open for all the festival-goers looking to extend the party! The complete programming of our official sites is available on our website at www.heho.ca

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. **Adult day passes** are also available for \$13 at the Festival du Voyageur office and Voyageur Park.

For additional information regarding Festival du Voyageur, visit our website at www.heho.ca, call 233-ALLÔ, or pick up a copy of the official guide available at Safeway Stores. For all the latest news, like our [Facebook page](#) or follow our [Twitter account](#).

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