



## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

### A FESTIVE FIRST WEEKEND AT FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR!

**SAINT-BONIFACE, February 11, 2016** – This year, Festival du Voyageur is celebrating its 47th anniversary and is offering a wide range of new winter activities and events from February 12 to 21, 2016. The Festival's first weekend officially begins on Friday, February 12 and is loaded with exciting activities and concerts for all ages.

#### AN ASTONISHING OPENING NIGHT FOR THE WINTER FESTIVAL

The **Torch Light Walk presented by the Canadian Museum for Human Rights** marks the official launch of the celebrations, on the evening of Friday, February 12. The walk, which will be lit by hundreds of candles and torch lights, will begin at **6:30 p.m.** at the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights** in the Bonnie and John Buhler Hall (main entrance) and will end at Voyageur Park for the **opening celebrations**. The ceremony will **begin at 7:30 p.m.** with an inspiring traditional friendship dance and **spectacular fireworks** provided by Archangel Fireworks which will surely dazzle the spectators. This Friday, Voyageur Park will be open to the public from 5 p.m. to midnight.

#### NEW THEMED NIGHTS IN THE UNIVERSITÉ DE SAINT-BONIFACE PORTAGE TENT

This year and for the very first time, Festival du Voyageur is proud to present a variety of **themed activities** in the new Université de Saint-Boniface Portage Tent. During both Saturdays, visitors will be able to explore over a dozen local artisans and vendors during the brand-new **Market Days**, the first one being held on **Saturday, February 13 from 10 a.m to 4 p.m.** Things will change gears in the evening with the **Chansonnier Night** on February 12, **Karaoke Night** on February 13, and last but not least **Singles Night presented by Diamond Gallery** on February 14, which will offer fun activities and games for everyone 18 years old and over.

#### VOYAGEUR PARK DECORATED WITH BREATHTAKING SNOW SCULPTURES

The **International Snow Sculpting Symposium** is back once again at the winter festival. The snow sculptures will transform Voyageur Park into a winter paradise. For the first few days of the Festival, you will have the chance to witness the artists at work on their masterpieces. This year Festival du Voyageur is welcoming sculptors from as far as **France, Ecuador** and **Germany** as well as **Saskatchewan, Québec** and **Manitoba**!

#### A PLETHORA OF ACTIVITIES ON LOUIS RIEL DAY

To celebrate **Louis Riel Day presented by Global News** on Monday, **February 15**, Festival du Voyageur offers a full day of special programming to honour Manitoba's founding father. In the Université de Saint-Boniface Portage Tent there will be a variety kiosks of such as **l'Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba** and the **Société historique de Saint-Boniface** who will have unique displays. **The Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre** will give festivalgoers the opportunity to meet an Arctic Fox, a Grey Owl and Barn Owl! Not to be missed, the **Giant Louis Riel Family Mosaic**, created by photos sent to us by the public throughout the year, will also be unveiled at **11:30 a.m.** in front of Fort Gibraltar. There will also be a variety of activities offered inside of **Fort Gibraltar** from **10 a.m. to 7 p.m.** for Louis Riel Day.

#### OFFICIAL PARTNERS



#### MEDIA PARTNER

## #BEMUSICAL AT THE FESTIVAL

During the first weekend of Festival, Voyageur Park will offer energetic performances by artists from near and far, such as **Sweet Crude, Red Moon Road, Les Hay Babies, The Harpoonist and the Axe Murderer, Les Poules à Colin** and many more! Voyageur Park also offers a little bit of everything for all ages thanks to **marijo, Mr.Circus, Madame Diva** and **Patrick Grégoire the magician** who will be with us from Saturday to Monday to entertain the younger crowds in the La Prairie Tent.

## WORKSHOPS, DEMONSTRATIONS, AN EXHIBIT AND MORE AT FORT GIBRALTAR

**Fort Gibraltar** will be open to the public all weekend and will offer **historical interpretation** for the Festival's visitors. The costumed interpreters will be ready to answer the guests' fur trade era questions. Festivalgoers will also be able to become voyageur apprentices! A whole range of **demonstrations** will be offered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Maison du Bourgeois during the entire weekend. For the complete schedule of **Voyageur Apprenticeship Workshops** and demonstrations, visit our website at [heho.ca](http://heho.ca). The **Bar Gibraltar** will once again be the late-night area at the Park on **February 14, and 15** from **9:15 p.m. to midnight**. Fort Gibraltar will also host the first outdoor exhibit of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights titled **Let Them Howl: 100 Years in the Women's Rights Struggle**.

## MORE ENTERTAINMENT AT OUR OFFICIAL SITES

Along with Voyageur Park, our other **Festival du Voyageur official sites** will keep you entertained during the 10 days of the festival. The sold out **Coeur de Pirate** show will be held at the **Voyageur Trading Post** (CCFM) on February 13. Don't forget to visit the **Rendez-vous on Ice presented by CitiFinancial**, on the Red River Mutual Trail, where the Red and Assiniboine rivers meet, to have **breakfast on the ice** on February 12, see the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of **Fashion on Ice**, participate in activities for the whole family and hang out at the outdoor bar. The **Relais des pionniers** will also be offering delicious dinners accompanied by entertaining shows on **February 13 and 14**.

**The Marion, Mon Ami Louis, Club St-B, Le Garage, l'Auberge du violon, and The Wood** will also be welcoming visitors during the 10 days of Festival. The complete schedule of our official sites is available on our website at [heho.ca](http://heho.ca).

The **10-day Voyageur passes** are currently on sale for \$32 for adults, \$16 for youth (13-17 years old) and \$11 for children from the ages of 5 to 12 years old. The **day passes** are also available for the cost of \$18 for adults, \$11 for youth and \$9 for children 5-12. The passes are sold at all **Safeway locations in Winnipeg**, at **233- ALLÔ** as well as at [heho.ca](http://heho.ca).

For additional information on Festival du Voyageur, visit our website at [heho.ca](http://heho.ca), call 233-ALLÔ (2556), or pick up a copy of the official program available at Safeway stores in Winnipeg. For all the latest news, download [our mobile app](#), like our [Facebook page](#) or follow our [Twitter account](#).

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