



**PRESS RELEASE**  
*For immediate release*

## A LIVELY FIRST WEEKEND AT FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR!

**SAINT-BONIFACE, February 12, 2015** – This year, Festival du Voyageur is celebrating its 46th anniversary and is offering a wide range of winter activities and events worthy of its long and impressive history from February 13 to 22, 2015. The Festival's first weekend officially begins on Friday, February 13 and is loaded with exciting activities and concerts. Get ready for The World's Largest Kitchen Party!

### STARTING OFF WITH A BANG!

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 13. The walk, which will be lit by hundreds of candles and torch lights, will begin at **6 p.m.** at the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights** in the Bonnie and John Buhler Hall (main entrance) and will come to an end at Voyageur Park for the **opening celebrations**. The ceremony will **begin at 7:30 p.m.** around a new firepit- a replica of Fort Gibraltar created and provided by **Russel Metals** where a splendid fire will burn and **spectacular fireworks** by Archangel Fireworks will surely dazzle the spectators. This Friday, Voyageur Park will be open to the public from 5 p.m. to midnight.

### MESMERIZING SNOW SCULPTURES IN VOYAGEUR PARK

The **International Snow Sculpting Symposium presented by Air Canada** 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 work on their masterpieces. The sculptors come from all over the world and this year we will be welcoming artists from as far away as the **Netherlands, Estonia and Germany**.

### HELP US CREATE A LARGE 'LIVING' MÉTIS FLAG FOR LOUIS RIEL DAY

To celebrate **Louis Riel Day**, Monday, **February 16**, Festival du Voyageur offers a full day of special programming, including creating **the largest living Métis flag in the world!** Visitors will meet us at **Fort Gibraltar's South Tower at 3 p.m.** All necessary attire will be provided. There will also be many different activities at Fort Gibraltar, such as **traditional trades and crafts demonstrations, fiddling and jigging workshops, a presentation on Métis flags**, and much more. Day and night, the tents in Voyageur Park will also be offering a variety of entertainment for the whole family.

### MUSIC IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT VOYAGEUR PARK

During the first weekend of Festival, Voyageur Park will offer breathtaking performances by artists from near and far, such as **Le Vent du Nord, The Dead South, Les Hôtesses d'Hilaire, Chic Gamine, JP Hoe, Moses Mayes** and many more! Voyageur Park also offers a little bit of everything for all ages thanks to **Carmen Campagne, Madame Diva, Skill Circus** and **Marie-Claude** who will be with us from Saturday to Monday to entertain the younger crowds in the Université de Saint-Boniface La Prairie Tent.

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## DAY AND NIGHT ACTIVITIES AT FORT GIBRALTAR

Fort Gibraltar will be open to the public all weekend and will offer **historical interpretation** for the Festival's visitors. Our costumed interpreters will be ready to answer any of the guests' fur trade era questions.

You can also visit the Fort and become an apprentice voyageur! We offer a whole range of **demonstrations** 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).

This year, Festival du Voyageur offers, for the very first time, nightly activities between the four walls of Fort Gibraltar! The **Bar Gibraltar presented by Jägermeister** will be a new late-night area at the Park. Festival-goers will have the opportunity to dance to **DJ beats**, warm up around **bonfires** with a cup of cider and be amazed by **firejugglers!** The Fort's nighttime activities will take place on **February 14, and 15** from **9:30 p.m. to midnight**. This venue is open to all ages.

## 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. Visit the **Voyageur Trading Post (CCFM)** on February 14<sup>th</sup> and check out **Jocelyne Baribeau and Stef Paquette** in Antoine Gaborieau Hall. Also at the Voyageur Trading Post, on Sunday, **February 15**, visitors can listen to **Mathieu Rancourt** and **Kelly Bado** in Antoine Gaborieau hall.

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 see the 2<sup>nd</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 14 and 15**.

**Club St-B, Le Garage, l'Auberge du violon, The Wood and Club Regent** 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 \$30 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 \$17 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 guide 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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