



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

THE FIRST FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR WEEKEND IS TAILOR MADE FOR ALL HÉHO HEROES OUT THERE!

SAINT-BONIFACE, February 16, 2017 – This year, Festival du Voyageur is celebrating its 48th edition and is offering a wide range of new winter activities and events from February 17 to 26, 2017. The Festival's first weekend officially begins on Friday, February 17 and is loaded with exciting activities and concerts for all ages.

A SPECTACULAR OPENING NIGHT TO KICK THINGS OFF

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 17. 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 **spectacular fireworks** provided by Archangel Fireworks which will surely dazzle the spectators and a touching tribute to the large oak tree of Voyageur Park which will find new life as a sculpture following the festival. This Friday, Voyageur Park will be open to the public from 5 p.m. to midnight.

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, Germany and Venezuela** as well as **Manitoba, Ontario** and the **United States!**

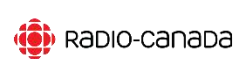
REV UP YOUR CHAINSAWS

Festival du Voyageur in collaboration with the Winnipeg River Chainsaw Carving Association will present the first Wood Carving Challenge featuring chainsaw carvers from all over the nation including stars of **HGTV's Carver Kings** and **OLN's Sawdogs**. From February 18 to 20 and February 25, seven carvers will rev up their chainsaws right in front of festivalgoers as they create their unique and original works of art in the heart of Voyageur Park. You might even get to take one of the pieces home. There will be a **hybrid (online-live) auction** on February 25 for the event's sculptures. Visit www.heho.ca for all the details and the auction guidelines.

THEMED NIGHTS IN THE UNIVERSITÉ DE SAINT-BONIFACE PORTAGE TENT

Festival du Voyageur is proud to present a variety of **themed activities** in the **Université de Saint-Boniface Portage Tent**. During both Saturdays, visitors will be able to explore over a dozen local artisans and vendors during **Market Days**, being held on **Saturday, February 18 from 10 a.m to 6 p.m.** In the evening, things will change gears with the **Beard Growing Contest** presented by Talbot & Associates on February 17, **Karaoke Night** on February 18, and last but not least **Singles Night presented by Diamond Gallery** on February 19, which will offer fun activities and games for all adults (18+).

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A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES ON LOUIS RIEL DAY

To celebrate **Louis Riel Day presented by Global News** on Monday, **February 20**, 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 kiosks for the **Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba**, the **Société historique de Saint-Boniface**, the **Assiniboine Park Zoo** and more! **The Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre** will give festivalgoers the opportunity to come face to face with members of Manitoba's wilderness! Not to be missed, the **Mosaic in honour of Tommy Prince**, created by photos sent to us by the public throughout the year, will be displayed in front of Fort Gibraltar. There will also be a variety of activities offered inside **Fort Gibraltar** from **10 a.m. to 7 p.m.** for Louis Riel Day.

MUSIC TO SUIT ALL TASTES AT VOYAGEUR PARK

During the first weekend of Festival, Voyageur Park will offer energetic performances by artists from near and far, such as **Lanikai, Alfa Rococo, Danny Boudreau Party, Wide Mouth Mason, Les Respectables, William Prince, Suroît, Kelly Bado, Bright Righteous, ZULUZULUU, Red Moon Road** and many more! Voyageur Park also offers programming for kids of all ages including **Al Simmons, Carmen Campagne, marijo, Mr.Circus, Madame Diva** and **Patrick Grégoire the magician** who will be performing from Saturday to Monday in the MTS Rivière-Rouge Tent and 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. For the first time, there will be themed days in the fort where costumed interpreters will be ready to answer guests' fur trade era questions. Festivalgoers will also be able to become voyageur apprentices! A whole range of **demonstrations** will be offered on the 2nd 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. **Bar Gibraltar** will once again be the late-night hotspot at the Park on **February 18, and 19** from **9:15 p.m. to midnight**. For the second year in a row, the fort in association with the Canadian Museum of Human Rights will host an outdoor preview of the museum's next exhibit in honour of Canada's 150th Anniversary titled **Our Canada, My Story**.

MORE ENTERTAINMENT AT OUR OFFICIAL SITES

Along with Voyageur Park, the other **Festival du Voyageur official sites** will keep you entertained during the 10 days of the festival. The **Voyageur Trading Post (CCFM)** will host a concert featuring two Quebec stars, folk duo **Les soeurs Boulay** and avant-garde pop-rocker **Alexandre Désilets** on **February 20**. Tickets for the concert are available on our website www.heho.ca. The Voyageur Trading post will also be home to the **Auberge du Violon Night** and **Acadian Night** hosted by **Gabriel Robichaud** and featuring **the Danny Boudreau Party, Suroît** and delicious food made especially for the occasion.

Don't forget to visit the **Rendez-vous on Ice presented by Pinnacle**, on the Red River Mutual Trail, where the Red and Assiniboine rivers meet for **Breakfast on Ice, Fashion on Ice presented by Canadian Footwear**, the first **Winter Pride** for the LGBTQ community presented by Room Service Winnipeg, **Discothèque on Ice presented by Alliance française** and more! All this programming is offered for free!

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Le Canot presented by Radio-Canada, a legendary Saint Boniface watering hole and the perfect place to keep celebrating into the wee hours of the night in an intimate and cheerful atmosphere! This official site will feature musical entertainment by **Les Respectables, Slick and the Woodticks, Guy Abraham** and more!

The Relais des pionniers, The Marion Hotel, Mon Ami Louis, Club St-B, Le Garage, 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.

The 10-day Voyageur passes are currently on sale for \$34 for adults and \$13 for youth (5-17 years old). **Day passes** are also available for the cost of \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth. The passes are sold at all **Safeway and Sobeys locations in Winnipeg** as well as the **233-ALLÔ (2556)** info line, the Festival du Voyageur office (233 Provencher Blvd) or online at heho.ca.

For additional information on Festival du Voyageur, visit our website at heho.ca or call 233-ALLÔ (2556). For all the latest news, download [our mobile app](#) powered by **Greencopper**, like our [Facebook page](#) or follow our [Twitter account](#).

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Source :

Stéphane Oystryk, Communications Assistant
(204) 258-2564
soystryk@heho.ca

To coordinate an interview :

Jean-Bocar Diallo, Marketing Assistant
(204) 258-2563
mbedard@heho.ca



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