



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

THE SECOND WEEKEND OF FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR 2017 STARTS TONIGHT!

SAINT-BONIFACE, February 23, 2017 – Despite the melting snow, here's to all the HéHo Heroes who persevered and made Festival du Voyageur's « joie de vivre » burn all the brighter. It was a celebratory first weekend filled with memorable moments, good friends and that kind of warm welcoming atmosphere that only Festival du Voyageur can provide. This upcoming second weekend promises to be just as great. From February 23 to 26, expect excellent music, delicious eats and unique activities at Voyageur Park and our Official Sites.

"Festival du Voyageur would like to reassure festivalgoers that we are doing everything we can to ensure that our festival grounds are safe", said Ginette Lavack Walters, Executive Director of Festival du Voyageur. "With the cold weather coming back, Voyageur Park may be a bit icy. Our park crew is adding woodchips and sand to create safer passageways for our visitors. We also ask that festivalgoers use caution when walking on the festival grounds. Due to the abnormally mild weather, we expect strong attendance again this weekend and appreciate our patrons' patience as we do our utmost to effectively manage and control traffic on site by monitoring entry and exit flows."

PETIT CANADA AND A FRANCOPHONE BATTLE OF THE BANDS

This Thursday, February 23, Festival du Voyageur, in collaboration with the Conseil jeunesse provincial (CJP) will offer an evening of programming "by youth, for youth". This year marks the 22nd edition of the **Petit Canada** evening at Voyageur Park. This night will feature bands such as **Alfa Rococo**, **Les Respectables**, 2016 Radio-Canada Revelation **Laurence Nerbonne**, **Mamadou** and **The Mariachi Ghost** to name a few. The evening will also feature the **2017 Chicane Électrique**, an epic battle of the bands for local francophone artists presented by Le 100 Nons and the CJP. The competition will be held in the MTS Rivière-Rouge Tent from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Voyageur Park will be open to the public from 6 p.m. to 12 p.m.

A SECOND WEEKEND OF WOOD CARVING WITH CHAINSAWS

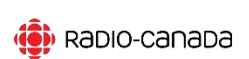
Festival du Voyageur in collaboration with the Winnipeg River Chainsaw Carving Association presents the first **Wood Carving Challenge** featuring chainsaw carvers from all over the nation including stars of **HGTV's Carver Kings** and **OLN's Sawdogs**. On February 25, our seven carvers attempt the **Quick Carve Challenge** in Voyageur Park starting at 10:30 a.m. Each carver will have only a few hours to carve a small unique and original sculpture. You might even get to take one of the pieces home. Following the Quick Carve Challenge, all the sculptures will be auctioned off during our **hybrid (online-live) auction**. Visit www.heho.ca for all the details and the auction guidelines.

A FLURRY OF ACTIVITIES IN VOYAGEUR PARK

This weekend, festivalgoers can enjoy a variety of activities and musical acts at Voyageur Park. The **Indigenous Winter Trading Camp**, **maple taffy** and **caribou in an ice glass** are but a few of the popular activities that will be back again this weekend. On the musical end of things, musicians from here and abroad will have visitors singing and dancing, including **Les Respectables** celebrating their 20th anniversary, **Le Bal à l'huile**, **Monophonics**, **Sierra Noble**, **3Peat**, **Moon Tan**, **Faouzia**, **The Catamounts** and **Alexis Normand** to name a few.

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For country music fans, there will be a special **QX 104 Night** in the Investors Group Pembina Tent on Saturday night featuring **Tyler Del Pino, Kayla Luky** and **Renée Lamoureux**.

Don't miss out on special events going on at Voyageur Park this weekend! Friday night is **Board Game Night** presented by Across the Board Game Café at 8 p.m. in the Université de Saint-Boniface Portage Tent. On Saturday, come check out the **Mascot Challenge** presented by One Insurance featuring **over 10 mascots** at 3 p.m. in front of the walls of Fort Gibraltar! Also on Saturday, the last day of **Market Days** will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Université de Saint-Boniface Portage Tent followed by **Karaoke Night** at 8 p.m.

Also in Voyageur Park the **Taverne de la Brigade** in **Maison Chaboillez** will open its doors from Thursday to Sunday. Finally, the closing ceremony will officially mark the end of the 2017 Festival du Voyageur on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. in the MTS Rivière-Rouge Tent.

WORKSHOPS, KITCHEN PARTIES AND HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION IN THE FORT

Fort Gibraltar will be open to the public offering historical interpretation for visitors and new **themed days**. Every night in the Winterer's Cabin, come take in our **Kitchen Parties** and party like the voyageurs did, jigging to great live music. Visitors will also be able to get their dance-on outside in the middle of the fort at **Bar Gibraltar** featuring some of the city's best DJs from 9:15 p.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Our famous pea soup cook-off, the **Rendez-vous des chefs** presented by Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers, will once again be held in **Maison du Bourgeois** on Sunday starting at 1 p.m. Sample soups from **over 10 local restaurants** competing for the city's pea soup crown. Also on Sunday at 1:30 p.m., there will be a must-see **demonstration of historical military tactics** between la Compagnie de La Vérendrye and The Forces of Lord Selkirk in Voyageur Park.

Don't miss out on **Voyageur Apprenticeship Workshops!** We offer a whole range of demonstrations and workshops on the **2nd floor of Maison du Bourgeois** over the weekend including **wood carving, hide tanning** and **Métis beading**. For the complete schedule of Voyageur apprenticeship workshops and demonstrations, please visit our website.

AN ABUNDANCE OF SHOWS AT OUR OFFICIAL SITES

In the heart of St-Boniface, the **Voyageur Trading Post** (CCFM - 340 Provencher Blvd.) is renowned for its marquee events. This evening, **Cajun Night** presented by the United-States Consulate General will feature Louisiana's own **L'Angélu**. The general public is also invited to the unveiling of the **Capote recipient** on **Community Night** presented by La Liberté and featuring Québec pop-rock artists, **Les Respectables**, on Friday, February 24. American troubadour **Martin Sexton** takes to the stage for what is sure to be one of the highlight shows of Festival 2017 on Saturday, February 25 (tickets available at heho.ca). Not to mention our **Jigging and Fiddling Contests** presented by Power Corporation of Canada taking place during the day on Saturday and Sunday.

Visit **Le Garage, Le Canot, The Wood, Club St-B, Mon Ami Louis** and **The Marion Hotel** where visitors can enhance their Festival experience until February 26. The complete schedule for our official sites is available at www.heho.ca.

FILL OUT OUR SURVEY TO WIN TICKETS TO KURIOS BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

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Fill out our [survey](#) for a chance to win a **Winnipeg Staycation Package** including 4 tickets to **KURIOS by Cirque du Soleil**, under the Big Top at Sterling Lyon Parkway & Kenaston Blvd., and a **1 night stay at the Fairmont Winnipeg** OR a **\$300 package for Thermëa - Winnipeg spa!**

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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