

JOHN ARCAND FIDDLE FEST

August 2017

For immediate release...

JOHN ARCAND FIDDLE FEST CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!

Windy Acres on the Pike Lake Highway becomes a temporary village each year as campers line the hay field, tents pop up in the trees and people stream in from the parking lot and free shuttle service. This year was the very special with the 20th Anniversary of the John Arcand Fiddle Fest running August 10th through 13th.

What a celebration it was! Lots of memories were shared and many new memories were created. The festival kicked off Thursday evening with the book launch of *Master of the Métis Fiddle John Arcand: The Man, The Music, The Festival*. Published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute and written by Wilfred Burton and Cheryl Troupe, the book tells the story of John's life and legacy, from humble beginnings to the celebration of his dream with the 20th Anniversary John Arcand Fiddle Fest. GDI generously donated 500 copies to the Festival as a fundraiser and sales went well all weekend. The book is available for sale by contacting the festival office.

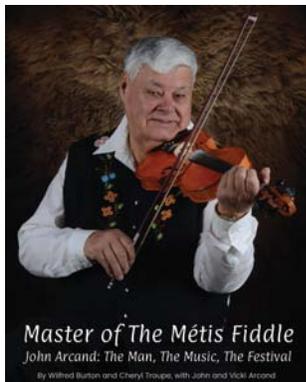


Photo1: Book Cover Master of the Métis Fiddle John Arcand: The Man, The Music, The Festival.

Photo2: (LtoR) John Arcand, Wilfred Burton, Vicki Arcand, Cheryl Troupe. Book Launch, August 10, 2017.

Festival interest continues to grow with more “first timers” and young families coming every year. This year's attendees enjoyed stage performers from across Western Canada and had the over 100 workshops in fiddle, jigging, square dancing, guitar and Métis art forms bustling. Fiddle competitions featured 45 participants vying for almost \$9000 in prize money and included a record number of Novice (12 and under) competitors.

Fiddle music, dance and culture are alive and well based on feedback from enthusiastic attendees. Festival goers consistently rave about the variety and talent presented at the evening concerts and this year's lineup was worthy of a 20-year celebration. Friday and Saturday concerts were followed by Old Time Dances which filled the night with lively music, dancing and so much fun.

“Entertainment is excellent – this is such an amazing event! One of the highlights in Saskatchewan”-
Carolyn Henderson, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan

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"I enjoy seeing the young people becoming immersed and carrying on the traditions. Love that the opportunity is there for all ages to participate in all activities and the chance to meet so many people that are like minded. All races are welcome. The Fiddle Fest brings us back to our heritage" – Alda Mitchell – Rocky Mountain House, Alberta

The John Arcand Fiddle Fest mandate is *to promote and preserve fiddle, music and dance and provide a forum to showcase youth, talent and culture.* "The increase in audience members, children, young fiddle contestants and workshop and cultural camp participants validates our mission," says Vicki Arcand, Festival Administrative Director, "it reassures us the traditions are being passed on to future generations.



Photo3: John Arcand Fiddle Fest Youth Ambassadors

Photo4: Beginners Fiddle Workshop

"The Festival is a unique experience," says Arcand, "We are so grateful for our sponsors, funders, attendees, performers, instructors, volunteers and staff who come together and create this amazing weekend of culture."

And, make plans now to attend the 21st Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest taking place August 9th to the 12th, 2018.