

22ND ANNUAL
F JOHN ARCAND **F**
FIDDLE FEST

EXECUTIVE REPORT
August 8 - 10th, 2019



John Arcand Fiddle Fest Executive Report

The 22nd Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest was a great success. With each year's presentation it is so amazing to see the camaraderie, the talent, the support and the appreciation. Thank you to our board of directors, administrative staff, amazing volunteers, seasonal staff, instructors, performers, competitors, sponsors, funders and all of our audience members you

John Arcand Fiddle Fest 2019 Gate Stats		
Pass Type	Actual # of Unique Visitors	Estimated Festival Attendance
Day Passes	792	792
12 & Under	174	522
Three Day Pass	355	1065
Two Day Pass	59	118
Performers & Volunteers	135	405
Total Estimated Audience	1515	2902

all played an important role in making this year happen. "Almost" perfect weather set the stage for our event August 8-10th, with just a few small showers to settle the dust on Friday and a bit more of a chill in the air in the evenings. After repeated requests to run the fiddle contest portion of our festival in one day, we finally planned our programming to accommodate and moved to a three day format. The requests were definitely

warranted as we had an outstanding 50 fiddlers in the contest. This along with our efforts to step up the advertising and increase our social media presence worked well as we experienced a number of exciting developments in audience attendance and participation.

There was a noticeable increase in day attendance this year, proving again our efforts to raise awareness to local folks that this cultural event happens in their own "backyard" is being heeded. With our reasonable one-time gate fee, free shuttle service from four locations in the city and a weekend of unique family fun, locals are sure to increasingly favor the John Arcand Fiddle Fest as an inexpensive and accessible summer destination!

They came from all corners of Western Canada and beyond! Fifty competitors vied for over \$7,700 in prize money and the addresses indicate we are fortunate to have people travelling from all over to participate. Results from the fiddle contest are attached, and are also available on our Facebook and website. Although our competition numbers are 25% higher than 2018 not everyone was out to compete, some people came for the range of musical and cultural workshops we provide.

Participation in our over 100 workshop exceeded our expectations! Our Métis Cultural Camp experienced maxed out attendance at every registered session, the Q&A workshops on Truth and Reconciliation saw another noticeable increase in attendance – as did Métis Storytelling. Both of these offerings are designed, so more people have a clearer understanding of the calls to action and what they can do in their daily lives to further the goals. The Square



Music with Ed



Absolute Beginner Workshop



Redwood Hill

dance workshops experienced huge growth with a packed dance floor at every presentation with over 150 participants over our two sessions. Though many associate old-time music with older generations, the John Arcand Fiddle Fest proves to be an intergenerational experience. Drawing from over 1768 participants in our workshops (fiddle, guitar, dance and the Cultural camp), the demographic was 31% senior 25% adult and 44% youth!

John Arcand Fiddle Fest 2019 Workshop Summary					
Discipline	Senior	Adults	Youth	Under 12	Total
Fiddle	207	166	114	176	663
Guitar	62	102	31	29	224
Jigging	52	84	34	45	215
Cultural Camp	107	150	64	70	391
SquareDance	43	54	26	33	156
Music with Ed	36	29	25	29	119
Total	507	585	294	382	1768

These statistics were also demonstrated by a busy Children’s Activity Area, where an array of arts and crafts and interactive story-time and kid-oriented music workshops were met with approval by children and parents alike.

With the change to a three day format we were able to add a concert series to Saturday afternoon along with our old time dances, daytime programming, and evening concerts – we had many encores and standing ovations. On Friday and Saturday night the old time dances were a refreshing scene of young and old taking to packed dance floors to “swing their partners” and celebrate live music.



Children’s Activity Area

A great time was had by all as patrons enjoyed music, partook in workshops, danced and jammed. An important part of our mandate is to nurture Métis and old-time music, dance and the arts for future generations, so we are pleased to see our hard work and dreams becoming a reality!

From top Left: Saturday afternoon showcase - Freddie and Sheila Pelletier, Thursday evening fiddle instructor showcase, the fiddle finale, intermediate guitar workshop, Métis finger weaving workshop, red river jigging workshop

