



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Diverse Lineup to Entertain All at Canada Day “Made in Abbotsford” Celebration

Abbotsford, June 12, 2018 – This year’s Canada Day Celebration is all about home town spirit with its “Made in Abbotsford” theme. An impressive lineup of local entertainment has been booked for the mainstage at Abbotsford Exhibition Park in honour of Canada’s birthday.

This year’s Canada Day Celebration is sponsored by Prospera Credit Union, The Government of Canada and Telus. The Abbotsford Arts Council has secured exciting performers to keep the entire family entertained all day long. Entertainment includes Saint Soldier, Aerophonics, David Morin, and The Honey Tongues. Calvin Dyck will also be producing a portion of the evening’s entertainment, which will feature local talent of the Abbotsford Youth Orchestra, the Pacific Mennonite Children’s Choir, MC Dance Academy, the Abbotsford Homeschool Children’s Choir, and Canadian born singer-songwriter Norm Strauss.

From 6:00-8:00 pm the following performers will grace the mainstage:

- Charlene Hart who gained recognition as one of the top 5 girls on the show “So You Think You Can Dance Canada” and will bring dancers from her studio “*MC Dance Academy*” to perform a hit song from “Greatest Showman”
- The *Abbotsford Homeschool Children’s Choir*, directed by Betty Lieuwen, which has over 60 members and will delight the audience with a toe tapping arrangements that are very familiar to us in the Fraser Valley!
- *Norm Strauss*, known for his world-class songwriting, storytelling and guitar playing will be performing his song “Immigrant” with the orchestra, which is the story of his Father coming to Canada. Norm, who has appeared on numerous TV shows including “The Voice of Germany”, has had his performances described as “A journey of the heart” (Inglewood Folk Club Calgary).
- The *Pacific Mennonite Children’s choir* under the direction of Betty-Ann Braun who just celebrated their 40 year anniversary will sing a variety of music including the stirring Canadian song “This is My Home” by Bob Buckley.
- The *Abbotsford Youth Orchestra* - an auditioned group of string players from the valley who have won awards for their top notch performances. On July 1st they will be performing a variety of entertaining selections including a choreographed tango called “Por Una Cabeza” and will feature a new composition by 11 year old Rafael Brisebois called “Simon’s Song”, which just won “Best Student Composition” at the Langley Kiwanis Festival.

Next on the stage are *The Aerophonics* at 8:35pm. The Aerophonics are Fraser Valley’s homegrown Motown and blue-eyed soul revival. This collective of local musicians bring original music reminiscent of the classic Motor City sound.

Following *the Aerophonics* will be Soul singer *David Morin* at 9:10pm. David Morin earned his stripes the hard way, busking on streets to make a living. The Vancouverite of Metis descent is a guitar virtuoso, making a solo performance sound like an entire band is behind him.

Headlining the event at 9:35pm are *The Honey Tongues*, an eight-piece “Swamp Opera”. They combine Americana and indie swing with soulful harmonies and beat-boxing, delicate folk with stomping dance numbers, including accordion, saxophone, mandolin, and mouth percussion, and will delight young and old alike. The fireworks display will begin immediately after their performance.

The afternoon entertainment lineup from 1:00 to 5:00 will consist of several community and cultural performances; as well as Abbotsford’s rapper Saint Soldier. Saint Soldier’s music is a blend of contemporary and old-school, and his lyrics invite both a clear-eyed look at reality, and a hopeful view of the future we can create together.

Quotes:

“Canada Day in Abbotsford is a special tradition, built through the support of our volunteers, local businesses and organizations. This year, along with celebrating our nation’s birthday, we’re celebrating that community spirit through our “Made in Abbotsford” theme. With parade, games and activities, and talented local entertainment, Canada Day is sure to be a wonderful family event that brings our community together. I look forward to seeing everyone there!”

Henry Braun
Mayor, City of Abbotsford

Associated Links:

Abbotsford Canada Day Events and Entertainment Lineup – www.abbotsford.ca/canadaday
Entertainment Photos (attached below)

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David Morin



The Honey Tongues



Saint Soldier