



DU CANAL RIDEAU

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PRESS RELEASE

MORE ART, MORE CULTURE, MORE HERITAGE THAN EVER BEFORE!

Rideau Canal Festival unveils 2011 programming
Ottawa, ON — June 13th, 2011

On April 18th, Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson proclaimed World Heritage Day in honour of the great engineering marvel, known as the Rideau Canal. Four years ago a new festival was born to celebrate this great achievement. The Rideau Canal Festival was initiated and today, Chairman of the Festival's board, Blair Patacairk rolled out its new and exciting program at the Bytown Museum, an official festival site. The program highlighted more art, culture and heritage events than ever before.

"We are encouraging residents and visitors to the Capital this year to express their love and how they connect to the Rideau Canal", Blair Patacairk, Chair of the Board, "In partnership with a whole host of Ottawa artists, historians, and businesses, we are truly celebrating this city's past, present and future."

At the event Mayor Watson joined in with Minister Madeleine Meilleur, MPP Ottawa-Vanier, in launching the Festival's new "I love the Rideau Canal" promotional campaign with local school children, from Lakeview Public School, Avalon Public School and École élémentaire catholique Élisabeth-Bruyère, who were the creators of the Festival's bus board campaign.

"Our city is rich with great natural and historic beauty", said Mayor Jim Watson. "The Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage site, stands apart as one of our most iconic and precious landmarks. This Festival is a remarkable opportunity for residents and tourists to connect with the Canal, and value its significance to the nation's capital."

Michel Gauthier, Executive Director of the Festival, unveiled a new direction for this year's programming which included Canal ART. This is a series of interactive art installations by 10 local artists. The festival also features the World Heritage Stage Concert Series and the new Festival Passport. The Passport entitles purchasers to more than \$100 worth of benefits and discounts. These include access to Festival sites and activities, including adopting-a-metre of the Canal, Canal Bikes as well as walking and bicycle heritage tours — all for a low price of \$20. Admission for children 12 and under is free. Among several announcements, the Festival has added an extra day this year and will be celebrating from July 28th to August 1st.

"The Government of Ontario, through Celebrate Ontario is pleased to support the Rideau Canal Festival by promoting Ottawa's local artistic community. Canal ART is a wonderful collection of interactive art installations inspired by the Rideau Canal" said Minister Meilleur.

The Festival's primary mandate is to celebrate UNESCO's Ottawa World Heritage Site, the one and only in Ontario, by bringing together a whole host of activities that families and visitors can enjoy.

Official sites include: Bytown Museum/ Ottawa Locks, Confederation Park and Dows Lake Pavilion.

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CANAL ART

Canal ART is an exciting new element which provides visitors the opportunity to discover our vibrant local artistic community.

The Rideau Canal Festival has commissioned 10 visual artists to express their interpretation of the Rideau Canal's World Heritage. Working with a theme of "Connections"; these temporary art installations will become part of Confederation Park in a huge outdoor gallery.

CANAL ART ARTISTS

Artistic Statement: Connections

The Rideau Canal is symbolic of connections: connecting people to our shared culture and history. Its bridges connect the neighborhoods of our city and it connects Ottawa to Kingston and to communities in between. It connects us to the other 910 World Heritage sites in 151 countries around the world, and helps in connecting Canada's 14 World Heritage sites with Parks Canada's 100th Anniversary.

The Rideau Canal connects us as citizens celebrating our local environment and connects us as Canadians into a wider global community of peoples, as together we strive to preserve and protect some of our planet's most important places in art, culture and heritage.

Mary Faught, Artistic Director

Mary Faught is a Landscape Architect/Sculptor from the area, who enjoys combining her skills to focus on site specific outdoor art installations. She has done numerous installations and group shows including Harbourfront Artists' Gardens in Toronto, Stone Hill Quarry Art Park in Cazanovia New York, and Art Terre '92 and '94 in Buckingham Québec. For Canal ART, she accepted the role of artistic director, curating ten artists in creating site specific installations in Confederation Park working with the theme CONNECTIONS.

Justin Dushesneau and Phillippe Allard

Architect and teacher, and Philippe Allard, visual artist, worked together to create "Arc-en-ciel" public installation for the place des Arts ephemeral art contest in 2009. Now they have come together again with the challenge of inventing a space (volume) made of salvaged wood and natural light entitled "Tree".

Dawn Dale

Visual artist from Alymer, Québec, and teacher at Ottawa School of Art. She will be joining iconic symbols of the Canadian wilderness with strong Canadians who care about Canada's identity.

"A Reinterpretation of Joyce Wieland and Friends Reenacting an Historical Event".

Lynda Cronin

Multi-disciplinary artist from Ottawa will be drawing on the history and folklore of the Rideau Canal with her **"Lady in Blue"** exhibit.

Marc Walter

Mixed media and environmental artist from Wakefield, Québec. 3 sculptures evoking the silhouettes of beings and shapes of hydro lines in his exhibit **"Les Potes/The Dudes"**.

cj fleury

Multi-disciplinary artist from Wakefield, Québec who recently completed the public art along Preston Street in Ottawa. cj will connect the Rideau Canal through Past to Present, Pain to Pleasure with her exhibit **"State of Mind"**.

Emily Rose Michaud

Interdisciplinary artist from Montreal and Wakefield Québec. Her exhibit **"like veins across heart"** will weave a river on a loam, using seeds that will illustrate the bodies of water flowing into the Ottawa River.

Diane Lemire

Multi-disciplinary artist, and fibre art teacher from Chelsea, Québec. In her quirky and unique style **"47 Coats and 47 Locks"** uses the ancient technique of felted wool to represent the pioneers, while the objects will bridge the present use of the canal.

Jennifer Macklem

Visual artist and professor at the University of Ottawa. She will use clear strands of like rays of light in her powerful exhibit **"Connections"**, connecting the strength and power of nature to bureaucracy.

Lisa Creskey

Visual artist working sculpturally with earthenware and porcelain clay from Chelsea, Québec. Her installation **"Rookery"**, will be several great heron nests mirroring the construction of the canal. Porcelain blue herons will be painted with images that document the history of the canal.

CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH HERITAGE

The Rideau Canal Festival is proud to offer Connecting Children to World Heritage. This program encourages children to celebrate heritage in an environmentally friendly way.

Under the direction art educator/ artist, Monique Martin, children and their families are invited to 2 different activities that provide an opportunity to explore the significance of the Rideau Canal while celebrating Parks Canada's 100th Anniversary.

CONFEDERATION PARK

July 29 to August 1 from 10AM - 6PM

Environmental Totem Poles

Participants will decorate 100 totem poles with environmental messages and artwork. Participants will be able to draw using various mediums, paint and/or collage onto the poles. The 100 totem poles will evolve throughout the festival weekend. The 100 poles mark the 100th Anniversary of Parks Canada and will be installed in Confederation Park.

BYTOWN MUSEUM/OTTAWA LOCKS

July 29 to August 1 from 10AM - 6PM

Locks of Love

Children and their parents are invited to come and decorate a silhouette of a lock (padlock) of love and show everyone what they love about the Rideau Canal. Participants will be able to draw using various mediums, paint and/or collage onto the locks of love. The 100 "Love Lock" silhouettes will be installed along the edges of the Ottawa Locks adjacent to the Bytown Museum to mark the 100th Anniversary of Parks Canada.

I Love the Rideau Canal Project

Last fall, under the direction art educator/artist Monique Martin, students from 4 schools: Lakeview Public School, Ottawa, Avalon Public School, Ottawa, École élémentaire catholique Élisabeth-Bruyère, Ottawa and Georges Vanier Catholic Fine Arts School, Saskatoon participated in the development of the Festival's Bus Board campaign.

A total of 650 students, from grades 1 to 4 expressed their love of the Rideau Canal by creating art work with the phrase I Love The Rideau Canal. 75 artworks were selected and have been integrated to this year's Bus Board Advertising Campaign. Some artworks were also included in the Festival's billboard campaign in Montréal and in Kingston.

The Rideau Canal Festival would like to thank all the students that took part in the I Love the Rideau Canal Project. We also wish to thank the Saskatchewan Arts Board – Arts Smarts Grant Program and Pattison Outdoor Advertising, who made this project possible with their generous contributions.

WORLD HERITAGE STAGE

THE RIDEAU CANAL FESTIVAL PRESENTS THE WORLD HERITAGE STAGE!

The Festival's opening ceremonies take place at the World Heritage Stage, located at Confederation Park, July 28 at 11:30 AM with Robin Averill singing the Rideau Canal Song.

Thursday International Youth Year Concert

Fresh Beat	3:00 PM
Riot Police	7:00 PM
White Wires	8:30 PM

Friday French Tribute Concert

Medhi Cayenne Club	7:00 PM
Yvan Vollé	8:30 PM

Saturday Irish Tribute Concert

Kitchen Party	7:00 PM
Herringbone	8:30 PM

Sunday Scottish Tribute Concert

Chris Angel	7:00 PM
Searson	8:00 PM

Monday First Nations Tribute

Entertainment from Wabano Centre from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Rideau Canal Song Sing-A-Long with Robin Averill at 3:00 PM

Other highlights of this main stage include: Fresh Beat, a house music show marking UNESCO's International Youth Year; Puffin Productions environmental storytelling and music for children; local bands Silver Creek, Searson, Jackson Miles Music, Herringbone, a Rideau Canal Song Sing-A-Long and much more. Every evening the World Heritage Stage will feature music honouring the Builders of the Canal, specifically the French, Scottish, Irish and Native Canadians.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Thursday July 28	11:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Friday July 29	10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Saturday July 30	10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Sunday July 31	11:00 AM - 9:30 PM
Monday August 1	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM