



Release

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For Immediate Release

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22nd YEAR OF THE LOCKPORT CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL TO KICK OFF ON JANUARY 30th

Festival Organizers and Floodway Authority Outline Improvements at New Permanent Festival Site

Today, as the 22nd Annual Lockport Children's Festival approaches, festival organizers and the Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) outlined site enhancements for the new permanent home for the festival including a graded and graveled driveway and parking area and a north side berm / hill to provide protection from the wind for festival goers.

"We are very pleased that we have been able to work with festival organizers to identify a permanent site for the festival," said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. "The new permanent location, along with the site improvements, will make the site more enjoyable for festival goers."

"The Lockport Children's Festival certainly appreciates the commitment that the MFA had made to the improvement of our Festival site," said Richard Keller, Vice President & Site Co-ordinator of the Lockport Children's Festival. "Since we made our move off the river, the floodway has been our temporary home turf. This summer we hope to erect a sign to deem the area as the permanent site for the Festival for the foreseeable future."

In 2008, construction of the Outlet Control Structure required the relocation of the festival to a new site located just off Provincial Road 202 and the floodway. Since that time, festival organizers have concluded that the temporary location better meets the needs of the festival. As a result, organizers approached the MFA to request that the temporary location be designated the permanent location of the festival.

In addition, as part of mitigation plan for the festival, the MFA, while undertaking floodway construction in the vicinity of the festival site, made the following improvements to the festival site:

- Construction of an embankment on the north side of the festival site to provide wind protection for festival goers; and
- Construction, grading and placement in excess of 14,000 tonnes of granular material on a driveway and parking area leading to the festival site.

The gravel was salvaged from the construction site of the newly expanded Outlet Control Structure while the material for the embankment was excavated from the floodway channel. It is estimated that the cost of undertaking this work by festival organizers would have been in excess of \$42,000.00.

The Lockport Children's Festival runs from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Saturday, January 30 and Sunday, January 31 and includes a variety of activities including giant tube slides, pony rides, snowmobile rides, sleigh rides, face painting, a petting zoo, children's entertainment and concessions stands. Festival gate admission is \$7.50 for adults and includes a number of free venues.

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