

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest concluded with record attendance and record participation in the popular workshops. The Festival's free on-site camp ground saw its first residents arrive much earlier this year and it grew to the largest temporary village this Festival has ever collected before the weekend was over. A sea of RV's filled the camping area as far as the eye could see.



Overall attendance grew by 36% with a noticeable growth from the Saskatoon area, where many are still just discovering this artful cultural gem in their own backyard.

Using the industry standard of counting attendance brought us up to 4736. This method would mean that a weekend wristband holder counts as four as they are here for four days – we feel more comfortable with tracking the unique visitors, which were 1824, and if you add performers, volunteers, under 12 etc, we feel we reached close to 2500.

#### **John Arcand Fiddle Fest 2008 Attendance Estimate**

(Based on actual sales and estimated participation by weekend passholders, Under 12's, and VIP's)

	Thurs	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Estimate of Participation	Actual # of Unique Visitors
Day Pass Sales (Actual)	57	121	314	141	633	633
Weekend Pass Sales (Actual)	421	50	50		521	521
Weekend Passholders Estimate		471	521	521	1513	
12 & Under	175	225	300	339	1039	339
Performers & Volunteers	200	225	274	274	973	274
VIP Passes Estimate		57			57	57
<b>Total Estimated Attendance</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>1149</b>	<b>1459</b>	<b>1655</b>	<b>4736</b>	<b>1824</b>
2007 Comparison	593	786	1136	955	3470	1411
Change (#)	260	363	323	700	1266	413
Change (%)	44%	46%	28%	73%	36%	29%

The Festival's exceptionally popular workshops in fiddling, jigging, guitar, and piano saw an increase in participation of about 10% to more than 1080. 49% (forty-nine) percent of registrants were youth, punctuating the success and impact of this festival that exists to preserve and nurture the cultural traditions of fiddle music and dance by passing them on to the younger generations.

Genre	Age Group			Total 2008	Total 2007
	Senior	Adults	Youth		
Fiddle	106	255	280	641	533
Piano	15	50	32	97	59
Guitar	5	53	26	84	63
Jigging	29	120	111	260	272
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>1082</b>	<b>927</b>



The feedback received by most participants and relayed through our audience survey is that folks would like more workshops and many are suggesting that the Festival starts on Wednesday allowing one more day. Organizers are taking a careful look at this and will include it in future planning sessions.

Thursday evening kicked off with a demonstration of traditional square dancing by the Shumi Family of Tisdale.



We then moved to the Thursday night headliner - Winston Wuttunee. He had the crowd holding their sides with his unique blend of musical comedy. Being able to showcase an Aboriginal artist of this caliber was a proud moment for the Festival.



Thursday evening was also the introduction of a new programming component, the presentation of John Arcand Fiddle Fest Lifetime Achievement Award. This will become a regular part of our Thursday evening programming, as the organization feels there are many deserving recipients in music and dance. This year's recipient was Everett Larson.

The popular Friday's night showcase was well attended and offered its usual variety of genres and cultures. With everything from contemporary square dancing to blues guitar, it was a wonderful potpourri of talent and entertainment. As always, this showcase is proud to feature two novice fiddle

players for two consecutive years. Celine Hounjet of Grandora performed for her final year, and young Matthew Gervais of St. Paul, Alberta was featured for his first. Rounding out the showcase was; The Happy Wanderers (a contemporary square dance group from Saskatoon), Dorian Micheals (a blues guitarist from California) Dolores Sands aka Kokum Elvis (singing Elvis songs in Cree), and John's daughter Michelle Arcand (vocalist from Alberta) who was joined by her daughter Dionna.



However, the Festival's highlight was the Saturday night "John Arcand and Friends Concert" where the mandate of the Festival was demonstrated at its finest. Begun by the Master of the Métis Fiddle himself, John Arcand led a powerful concert that grew through the evening to include the talented instructors who mentored workshop participants throughout the Festival and a group of young protégés following their footsteps. A crowd of 1500 gathered for this powerful spectacle of fiddle music by some of the best seasoned fiddlers in Canada and the fiddle world's future stars.



Both Old time dances Friday and Saturday night again had record crowds and cries for a larger dance floor.



Sunday morning, Mother Nature co-operated with a beautiful sunny morning, again setting record attendance at the Fiddles and Flapjacks Pancake Breakfast with music by Friends of the Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Tyme Music Society. This was followed by a huge crowd at the Gospel Hour with the unforgettable music stylings of the Pelletier Family.



We were proud to once again work in partnership with the Sask Native Theatre to present the "Children's Teepee", offering a variety of arts and crafts, face painting and the ever popular "teepee tales" (storytelling).



The volunteers really put in extra time this year, when at the last minute the contract for the group hired to run the parking lot fell through – but even so, they were all friendly, helpful and a huge thanks goes out to all of them.



The finals in all competitions followed, with 50 participants entered the sanctioned fiddle contest and 23 the Canadian Traditional Red River Jigging Championships, with winners taking home \$10,545 in prize money.



In preparation for the announcement of all the winners, and as a way to celebrate the completion of another year – we always have the popular Fiddle Finale.



The Festival ended with the draw for the "Big Bear Fiddle" fundraising raffle, which contributed more than \$25,000 to the capital campaign. The grand prize of a one-of-a-kind fiddle created by John Arcand, adorned with a scroll carved by Bill Kalyn in the likeness of Big Bear went to Jan Lafournaise of Saskatoon. The second prize of \$1,000 went to William Schlekewy of St. Walburg and Dawson Creek, BC's, Wendy Wiseman took home the third prize "Fiddling Around" quilt crafted by Marlee Ritchie.

Fundraising will continue this fall and winter with hopes of capping off the fund, allowing construction to begin this spring.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiddle Fest is currently planned for August 6-9<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

A list of the winners in Fiddle and Jigging follow...

**11th Annual John Arcand Fiddle  
Fest Results 2008**

<b>Novice 1</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Prov</b>	<b>Country</b>
	1 Tiara	Davy	Swan River	MB	CAN
	2 Matthew	Gervais	St. Paul	AB	CAN
	3 Raymond	Knorr	Regina	SK	CAN
	4 Claire	Brien	Rolla	ND	CAN
<b>Novice 2</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Prov</b>	<b>Country</b>
	1 Amber	Gordon	Boyle	AB	CAN
	2 Latysha	Longman	Wynyard	SK	CAN
	3 Logan	Spence	Battleford	SK	CAN
	4 Skyler	Spence	Battleford	SK	CAN
	5 Ben	Gaudreault	Leduc	AB	CAN
	6 Austin	Udell	Colonsay	SK	CAN
	7 Jared	Aby	Saskatoon	SK	CAN
	8 Keeley	Somers	Battleford	SK	CAN
	9 Jackson	Morin	Yellowknife	NWT	CAN
<b>Junior 1</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Prov</b>	<b>Country</b>
	1 Gabe	Brien	Rolla	ND	USA
	2 Shelby	Nicolson	Meadow Lake	SK	CAN
	3 Darla	Daniels	Caslan	AB	CAN
	4 Celine	Hounjet	Grandora	SK	CAN
<b>Junior 2</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Prov</b>	<b>Country</b>
	1 Roberta	Wallace	Regina	SK	CAN
	2 Erik	Paquette	Debden	SK	CAN
	3 Dallas	Fiddler-Boyer	Saskatoon	SK	CAN
	4 Jenise	Schneider	Scott	SK	CAN
<b>Senior</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Prov</b>	<b>Country</b>
	Mike	Page	Belcourt	ND	USA
	Gilbert	Anderson	Edmonton	AB	CAN
	Victor	Rose	Frenchman's Butte	SK	CAN
	Henri	Hince	Winnipeg	MB	CAN
	Francis	Bouchard	Kerrobert	SK	CAN
<b>Open 1</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Prov</b>	<b>Country</b>
	1 Jodie	Smith	Allan	SK	CAN
	2 Haven	Rees	Outlook	SK	CAN
	3 Nathan	Baker	Prince Albert	SK	CAN
	4 Taressa	Bergen	Colonsay	SK	CAN
	5 Bryn	Rees	Outlook	SK	CAN
<b>Open 2</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Prov</b>	<b>Country</b>
	1 Sarah	Romanuck	Saskatoon	SK	CAN
	2 Al	Procyshyn	Revelstoke	BC	CAN
	3 Glen	Hewgill	Winnipeg	MB	USA
	4 Cathy	Sproule	Saskatoon	SK	CAN
<b>Andy Dejarlis 12 and Under</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Prov</b>	<b>Country</b>
	1 Raymond	Knorr	Regina	SK	CAN
<b>Andy DeJarlis 13 to 17</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Prov</b>	<b>Country</b>
	1 Gabe	Brien	Rolla	ND	USA
	2 Celine	Hounjet	Grandora	SK	CAN
<b>Andy DeJarlis 18 and over</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Prov</b>	<b>Country</b>
	Cris	Tootoosis	Cutknife	SK	USA
	2 Al	Procyshyn	Winnipeg	MB	CAN
	3 Henri	Hince	Winnipeg	MB	CAN
<b>Traditional Métis</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Prov</b>	<b>Country</b>
	1 Victor	Rose	Frenchman's Butte	SK	CAN
	2 Al	Procyshyn	Winnipeg	MB	CAN
	3 Cris	Tootoosis	Cutknife	SK	CAN
	4 Aimee	Fauteaux	Abbotsford	BC	CAN

Championship John Arcand Fiddle Fest Results 2008					Country
1	Alex	Lamoureux	Comox	BC	CAN
2	James	Steele	Saskatoon	SK	CAN
3	Cammy	Romanuk	Saskatoon	SK	CAN
4	Aimee	Fauteaux	Abbotsford	BC	CAN
5	Cris	Tootoosis	Cutknife	SK	CAN

**11th Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest**

**2008**

**Results of the Canadian Traditional Red River Jigging Championship**

Youth 12 & Under		Town/City	Prov	Country
1	Rayna Shumi	Tisdale	SK	CAN
2	Rayleen Shumi	Tisdale	SK	CAN
3	Amber Gordon	Boyle	AB	CAN
Junior 13 to 16		Town/City	Prov	Country
1	Darla Daniels	Caslan	AB	CAN
2	Aimee Fauteaux	Abbotsford	BC	CAN
3	Gabe Brien	Rolla	ND	USA
Senior Men's		Town/City	Prov	Country
1	Henri Hince	Winnipeg	MB	CAN
2	Ray Isbister	Big River	SK	CAN
Senior Women's		Town/City	Prov	Country
1	Shirley Nanapay	Punnichy	SK	CAN
2	Theresa Baker	Bruce	AB	CAN
Men's		Town/City	Prov	Country
1	Joseph Naytowhow	Saskatoon	SK	CAN
2	Jason Cyr	Saskatoon	SK	CAN
3	Bruce Sinclair	Ottawa	ON	CAN
4	Harold St. Pierre	Saskatoon	SK	CAN
Women's		Town/City	Prov	Country
1	Rose Hammerlindl	Mantario	SK	CAN
2	Krystle Pederson	Martensville	SK	CAN
3	Desiree MacCaulay	Saskatoon	SK	CAN
Overall Grand Champion		Town/City	Prov	Country
	Henri Hince	Winnipeg	MB	CAN