



## The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest Wet and Dry and Happy!

“**Wet**” due to extreme rain “**Dry**” and “**Happy**” because of the new Roof - which definitely got baptized!

“Rain, rain go away” - was a common chant throughout the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest - however it didn't happen.

The permanent structure (known as the ROOF) was put up just before this year's festival and Festival organizers were indeed glad to be able to house all attendants under a solid roof: warm, safe and dry. They were also happy not to be dealing with “tent” issues in addition to the heavy rain and strong winds.

Record numbers of campers arrived early Tuesday and Wednesday this year and the Thursday night concert had record numbers, but then on Friday - the skies opened up and the continual torrential downpours for the entire day definitely impacted the number of folks arriving to camp and purchasing weekend passes. So the attendance numbers are down with total numbers sitting at 4604 and actual unique visitors at 1778. The only count done on campers, tents and RV's was Thursday afternoon and it was sitting at 224.

Workshop numbers were about par for Thursday, but Friday's rain forced the cancellation of almost all workshops except the piano and guitar - but that also brought on some great jam sessions and great numbers at the daytime programming under the brand new roof. After the cancellation of the 11a.m. Fiddle Workshops on Friday, we asked the fiddle instructors to run a jam session under the roof and 83 fiddlers, 5 guitar players and a mandolin player all played at the same time. A very poignant moment - with a lot of the audience and parents in tears.

The fiddle contest seen a record 54 fiddlers compete and the jigging competition had a total of 27 competitors, with an awesome geographical spread. Competitors from Alaska, North Dakota and South Carolina, marking the furthest and a very good showing from both Manitoba and Alberta.

All evening concerts were well attended and the dance floor was packed for both old time dances Friday and Saturday night. Thursday evening the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Harold Anderson of Battleford; recognizing his years of teaching fiddle, starting a fiddle program in the Lawrence school and being the driving force behind many contests and jamborees and then the Fiddle Instructors showcase! The best in fiddle from right across Western Canada - this is fast becoming a Festival Favorite. The All Metis Showcase Friday night was an incredible display of culture and talent, and as always our Saturday Night concert; John Arcand and Very Special Friends- where each instructor is paired up with a youth for a couple of numbers and then they are all on stage together for the big finale...brought many to their feet.

In addition to the new initiative of daytime programming, the 2010 Festival also offered shuttle service to and from Saskatoon for the first time and a “People Mover” to take people to and from the campground from the main venue...all of these were well received and already being planned again for 2011.

Some awesome work by volunteers selling 50/50, raffle tickets and t-shirts seen the gap on the loan to complete the construction of the Roof get smaller and help move the organization into Phase two of the Capital Campaign which is bleachers and an expanded dance floor.

A complete list of competitors in the fiddle and jigging contests is attached.

For more information please contact the Festival's Director, Vicki Arcand at 306.382.0111 or [windy.acres@sasktel.net](mailto:windy.acres@sasktel.net).