



Press Release

For Immediate Publication

Island-wide Celebrations for National Acadian Day 2016 to take Place August 12th-15th Weekend; Souris to Host

SUMMERSIDE (P.E.I.) – Friday, August 8th, 2016 – The president of la Société Saint-Thomas-d’Aquin (SSTA), Guy Labonté, invites one and all to join the Acadian and francophone community of P.E.I. in celebrating National Acadian Day activities which will take place all across the Island on the weekend of August 12th-15th. The SSTA wishes a wonderful National Acadian Day to all!

In 1881, at the first Convention of the Acadians, it was decided that August 15th would thereafter be observed as National Acadian Day. This day was chosen for many reasons, namely because as a distinct people, Acadians deserve to have a day of recognition; the later summer date does not conflict with seed-sowing commitments; and it coincides with the Assumption of Mary, patron saint of Acadians.

Souris, this year’s host Region – provincial celebrations – Saturday, August 13th to Sunday, August 14th :

La Société Saint-Thomas-d’Aquin, in collaboration with le Comité Acadien et Francophone de l’Est, invites the public to a number of free activities in the name of National Acadian Day and le Festival Acadien from August 13th to 14th.

Saturday, August 13th, there will be a traditional Kitchen Party from 6 to 9 p.m. Cover is \$5 per person and includes access to concerts featuring Island musicians **Anastasia DesRoches, Mylène Ouellette, JJ Chaisson & Les étoiles de l’Est**. **There will also be traditional Acadian dishes such as *fricot*** (Acadian chicken soup) and an Acadian roll. The ceremony will take place at **St. Mary’s hall in Souris, P.E.I.**

On August 14th, there will be activities beginning at 12 noon with the Acadian flag-raising and the national Acadian anthem sing-along, as well as speeches. A “Tintamarre” (interactive Acadian parade) will follow, and the public will be invited to a free variety show with the trio Louise Arsenault, Hélène Bergeron and Caroline Bernard. From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. there will be numerous family-friendly activities, including inflatable games, bingo and face-painting with Lynn Gaudet for the little ones; sea glass art and photos with Acadian mascot Acajoux. To close the event, from 4 to 5 p.m., there will be a concert with Louise MacKinnon, Kevin Chaisson and Rannie McLellan. These events will be held at the historic Souris lighthouse.

In the evening, another Kitchen Party will be held, and open to the public. From 6 to 7:30 p.m., Anastasia, Mylène and JJ will be performing once again. Also, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. les Étoiles de l’Est will be making an appearance. The festivities will finish off with a flourish as Anastasia, Mylène and JJ take the stage one last time from 8 to 9 p.m.

For more information, or to reserve your spot at this free event, please send an email to the following address: crystal.barriault@ssta.org

There will likewise be an array of free activities open to the public at each of the five other Acadian regions of P.E.I.: Charlottetown, Rustico, Summerside, Évangéline and Tignish. If you are in the area and would like to celebrate National Acadian Day, please check our website www.15aoutipe.com frequently for programming and updates.

La Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin is the official spokesperson of Acadians and Francophones on Prince Edward Island. It is their mandate to assure that all Acadians and Francophones can live and thrive individually and collectively in French on Prince Edward Island.

For more information:

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