

Potton spirit festival promises fun for everyone



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

The Municipality of Potton is proud to announce that its Annual Spirit of Potton Festival is back this year and will take place on Friday, Aug. 12 and Saturday, Aug. 13 at the Missisquoi River Park, Multi-Functional Shelter site situated at the Parc Andre Gagnon (243 North).

"The new location offers many benefits," said Municipal Council member and Festival President, Jason Ball. "We can assure that our activities are under cover which in the past has proven to cause some difficulties for vendors and those with kiosks if the weather does not cooperate. Our newly completed water game and children's play area will compliment the activity greatly," he shared.

The site also offers a variety of other recreational activities and those mixed with Festival plans will make for a spirited celebration with family,

friends, and neighbours.

The festival begins of Friday, Aug. 12 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. when the Potton firefighters and first responders will be holding a Mechoui supper fundraiser with a delicious pork and beef supper followed by homemade desserts, tickets \$30 per person, children 5 and under free. From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) is organizing a BINGO event with prizes including a \$250.00 jackpot as well as other monetary, gift certificates and item prizes donated by local merchants in support of the event.

From 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. DJ Dave Suarez will get everyone up and dancing.

Saturday, Aug. 13 is a full day of activities starting with a Petanque Tournament from morning to late afternoon. For information contact Christine Baudinet Municipal Council member at: cbaudinetpotton@gmail.com - 514-731-3554.

9 a.m. to 11 a.m. the Partage/Share CABMN Food bank will hold a fundraiser pancake breakfast under the multi functional shelter. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the artisans, organizations and farmer's market will welcome attendees under the multifunctional shelter as well.

From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. there will be an entertainment corner for children with a climbing wall, bouncy castle and trampoline. From noon to 4 p.m. Reptiles Rock from Ottawa will have a



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variety of animals to wow the crowd including: amphibians, lizards, insects and small mammals, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. there will be BMX demos by Wolf Bike Park on the new Pumptrack!

There will be musical performances under the multifunctional shelter all day including performances by: the Homebrew Dixieland Band, Les Deux de Pique, Knockin' Boots, Adam Karch, the Royal Pickles, 5 Pistols and during their break there will a fireworks display be from 9 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. followed by another hour of music as the 5 Pistols resume.

Food trucks will be on site including: Derby's Cantine and AJ's.

For more information and questions contact: Jason Ball, event President at 819-580-2449 or Emilie Hebert Larue: Event Vice President and council member at 514-245-4458.

The Municipality of Potton Mayor and Council members extend their gratitude to the volunteers on the organizing committee for this event who have worked alongside Jason and Emilie and include: Martin Dostie, Madeleine Langlois, Lucie Maurer as well as Municipal Staff: Mario St.Pierre, Martin Maltais, Valerie Therrien and Trish Wood. Without these people, an event of this magnitude would be difficult to see through.

Canadians encouraged to check their trees this month

Record Staff

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is asking Canadians to check for invasive pests in their own backyard as a part of Tree Check Month, which takes place in August. Noting that trees and plants are essential to maintaining Canada's clean air, natural spaces, parks, gardens, and a healthy economy, the agency is encouraging a proactive approach to tracking down certain invasive insects, diseases, and other organisms that threaten the health of Canadian trees and plant life.

According to the CFIA, invasive species are most often introduced and spread throughout Canada via human activity, such as trade and the movement of firewood or outdoor equipment. Pests can hitch a ride unseen in firewood, dirt and outdoor equipment (vehicles, trailers, camping gear, etc.). Climate change can also contribute to the spread of invasive species by changing environments so pests can survive where they couldn't before.

To help people take action to be more aware of threats to local ecosystems, the CFIA has produced a series of "invasive pest cards" and pest fact sheets to make it easier to know where to look and what look for – and

most importantly, how to report pests of concern. Apps like iNaturalist are also encouraged as tools for helping to identify potential pests.

"Examining the local trees and environment has a considerable impact on tree and plant health," said Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food in a press release marking the beginning of the initiative. "The power of everyday citizen scientists should not be underestimated. The finding and reporting from even one person could be a big help to Canadian tree and plant health."

People are encouraged to check local parks, gardens and even backyards and vehicles (with permission) for any unwelcome pests. Any invasive plant, insect, disease, snail or other plant pest foreign to the area should be reported to the CFIA directly either by phone or through their website. The closest CFIA office relating to plant health is in Saint-Hyacinthe: 450-768-1500.

"The health of trees and other plants is essential to the quality of our environment," remarked David Bailey, Chief Plant Health Officer for Canada and Executive Director for Plant Health and Biosecurity with the CFIA. "Throughout the month of August, I invite Canadians of all ages to pay close attention to the green spaces



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around us and to the life they support. Being on the lookout for pests protects our forests, our agriculture and our food security."

In terms of general tips, the agency encourages the population not to move firewood, but instead buy and burn local or heat-treated (kiln-dried) firewood. Trees, campers, equipment and items stored outside should be checked to remove insects and suspicious egg masses, and soil should be carefully removed from footwear, gear and equipment before packing up so as not to move pests.

Children are also encouraged to engage with being "plant health heroes" through interactive youth

activity booklets prepared by the agency and available at <https://inspection.canada.ca> under "protecting Canada's Plant Health."

Citizen reporting is not only critical to help the CFIA identify pests before they spread, but checking trees is an important task that happens to also be a fun activity! The Plant Health Hero challenge is open to anyone in Canada and features activities for youth. Challenge your friends, family and neighbours to get outside, enjoy a walk and check their trees. Share your photos of kids checking trees on social media using the hashtag #SeedlingScientist. Together we can protect Canada's green spaces.