



For Immediate Release

Heritage Ontario festival celebrates Ontario150 at Ontario Place this Canada Day long weekend

June 28, 2017

Heritage Ontario, the second in a series of summer long weekend festivals that celebrate Ontario150, kicks off Canada Day fun at Ontario Place on Friday, June 30. Everyone is invited to this free admission festival that celebrates the diverse heritage, culture and traditions of Ontario through music, food, entertainment and interactive exhibits, all on the West Island of Ontario Place.

“Ontario Place will be an exciting and vibrant place to be for the Canada Day long weekend as our province turns 150. From live music, food and cultural programming to the new park space with beautiful lake views, there’s something for everyone to enjoy,” said Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. “I look forward to seeing Ontarians and visitors alike at Ontario Place this weekend — and all summer long — taking part in the festivities and rediscovering all that Ontario Place has to offer.”

Join us and show off your provincial pride! Highlights include:

- **Science North Planetarium:** Science North will be presenting *Under the Same Stars: Minwaadiziwin* in a planetarium at the Ontario Educates building. The show aims to give visitors a chance to learn about the Indigenous worldview and sit at the fire with two people who are connected to the traditional ways. Visitors will leave the planetarium with an understanding of common constellations visible in the night sky and the Anishinaabe stories that define them.
- **Citizenship Ceremony:** The ON Stage will host a citizenship ceremony as new citizens take their oath and existing citizens reaffirm their commitment to Canada. New citizens’ photos will be added to an immigration journey wall. The ceremony will occur Saturday, July 1 at 4pm.
- **Canoe Blessing Ceremony:** Families will gather to learn how to build a hand-sized small paper canoe in the traditional way that Indigenous Elders built with Birch Bark. Garry Sault from the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation will give a traditional canoe blessing as he releases one canoe into the south pond. The ceremony will occur Sunday July 2nd at 4pm.
- **Cultural and Indigenous Programming:** Learn about Indigenous cultures through educational sessions at the Ontario Educates building as well as on the stages throughout the event.
- **Ontario Celebrates Museum:** The museum will take guests through key moments that have occurred in Canadian history.
- **Cultural Arts & Crafts:** The Cedar Market shipping container village will showcase a collection of Ontario products that highlight the many ethnicities that make up the fabric of Ontario culture.
- **Ontario Flavours:** A sampling zone for guests to experience daily tasting and pairing events from local food, wine, cider and beer vendors.

- **Drone Light Show:** Canadiana-inspired choreographed drone performances by Ontario-based *Arrowonics* will light up Ontario Place on Saturday, July 1 and Sunday, July 2 at 11pm (please be advised that these performances are weather dependent).
- **Art Installations:** Experience culture and creativity through Ontario artists along the North Walk.
- **Music:** Ontario150 performances include headliner *Reuben and the Dark*, a Canadian Indie folk band made up of five multi-instrumentalists and vocalists, led by Reuben Bullock, Saturday, July 1 at 9:30pm at the ON Stage. Throughout the festival, guests can enjoy the sounds of up-and-coming talent from the Ontario music scene on the Emerging Artist Stage.
- **NEW - Trillium Park and William G. Davis Trail:** The new green space, located on the East Island of Ontario Place is open during the festival. Key design elements of the park and trail reflect the Indigenous heritage of the site (park hours 5:00am-11:59pm, daily).

WHEN:

Friday, June 30: 3 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Saturday, July 1: 10 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 2: 10 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Monday, July 3: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

WHERE:

Ontario Place, West Island
955 Lake Shore Blvd. West
Toronto

About Ontario Place

Ontario Place is an agency of the Government of Ontario that features 155-acres of waterfront property in Toronto. The iconic location is a venue for live music, festivals and events. From enjoying the skyline, to attending a festival or concert — Ontario Place is a gathering space for everyone in the province. In 2017, Ontario Place will host a series of events on the West Island as part of Ontario150, the province’s celebration of Ontario and Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation.

For more information about Ontario Place please visit www.ontarioplace.com

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For interview requests or to confirm attendance, please contact:

MAVERICK
416-371-3155
ontarioplace@wearemaverick.com