

Assiniboine Park Conservancy Cancels Major Summer Events

For immediate release: Winnipeg, May 7, 2020 – In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health orders restricting large gatherings, the Assiniboine Park Conservancy (APC) has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Casinos of Winnipeg Summer Entertainment Series, which includes the annual Canada Day celebration at Assiniboine Park.

“The Province of Manitoba has made it clear that large gatherings and events will not be permitted until September at the earliest,” said Bruce Keats, Chief Operations Officer, Assiniboine Park Conservancy. “For this reason and out of concern for the safety of our staff, volunteers and visitors, we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year’s events.”

The Casinos of Winnipeg Summer Entertainment Series is a Winnipeg tradition that has grown in popularity over the years. The series, which usually runs from late June through August, features musical acts and movie nights at the Lyric Theatre, jazz performances in the Leo Mol Sculpture Garden, art exhibitions at The Pavilion, and early morning outdoor yoga classes. The events are offered free to the public and made possible through sponsorship and donor support.

Canada Day celebrations at Assiniboine Park have evolved over the years, but typically include a citizenship ceremony, family-friendly activities, a variety of food and beverage options, and live music and entertainment. The annual event, held in and around the Lyric Theatre and Riley Family Duck Pond, draws thousands of visitors to the Park.

“While we believe this is the right and responsible decision, it was made with a heavy heart. We know how important these events are to our community,” added Keats. “We would like to thank our sponsors for their support, in particular title sponsor Casinos of Winnipeg, and look forward to hosting these events again in 2021.”

Though APC’s ability to safely and successfully host these events in 2020 was already under review, the final decision to cancel was made following the release of the Province of Manitoba’s Restoring Safe Services plan on April 29. The decision follows announcements by a number of organizations regarding cancellation or postponement of other large summer events.

“We are taking the utmost care to respond to the ever-changing situation responsibly and will continue to base our actions on the direction of public health authorities and the City of Winnipeg,” said Keats.

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