

Hills alive with the sound of rock

Fans of the open air live concert experience are in for a treat this year as Rockin' the Fields of Minnedosa is set to swing open the gates for the 12th consecutive year. Twelve years of steady growth in regards to the crowds and the RFM site. The RFM board has added hillside seating in the main stage bowl including installation of old Winnipeg Blue Bomber stadium seats.

The big stage has been back for a few years now and much to the delight of the fans, it comes with a much bigger sound system to blast the tunes with! To help blast those tunes to the masses is a great line up.

Much like a great FM rock radio station, RFM has managed to present band line-ups that represent a great mix of classic and new rock as well as international recording artists and local or regional acts.

This August Long weekend get set to have a great time at this party and prepare to rock out and be blown away by smoking hot sets from the likes of: Night Ranger, Daughtry, Moist, The Tea Party, Econoline Crush, Wide Mouth Mason, The Glorious Sons, Queen City Kids and many more.

There's also a solid line up of local and regional bands that make up the nightly schedules on the hilltop stage — The Heritage Co-op Second Stage.

According to RFM secretary, Vaughan Boles, there'll even be a third stage set up "because you can never have enough stages to put the entertainment on at an outdoor festival. The third stage will be set up under the tent in the afternoons north of the volleyball court."

The third stage provides an ultra-cool atmosphere for festival goers adds Boles, "stage three allows for local bands and musicians to jam like we used to do on the member's deck. This stage is very laid back and refined and has a full on sound system provided by Terry Ross at TNT Productions. It's a very up close and intimate space and we open a bar there where special RFM cocktails are created."

Festival goers who will be camping will be happy to know that one of the most crucial amenities has been looked after, the showers. There have been upgrades over the past few years and this year there will be no fewer



HAPPENINGS ON THE SCENE

Frank McGwire is a veteran of the local radio industry, a musician and booster of the music scene in Brandon and Westman.

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than 20 per side to take care of those in need of a refreshing shower.

To add to the outdoor comfort the entire area has been sprayed to minimize the number of mosquitos. For the most part the lay of the land is similar to years past with the exception of a few changes to the merchandisers and

food vendor area. Biffies will be plentifully spread out on site and the autograph tent remains close to the lower bowl area just below the south end of the member's deck.

There will be a few extracurricular activities available to give the masses the opportunity to switch gears from live music and further expand the RFM experience. Those other activities include: a poker tournament registered with the province that offers cash prizes, volleyball court and more.

As the long weekend nears the board members and their faithful volunteer groups maintain their mission, which is to ensure everyone has the most enjoyable outdoor festival experience possible. They've got the experience and credibility to back that up that thanks to back-to-back wins at the Manitoba Tourism awards.

With more than 600 festivals nominated, RFM took home the award for the top festival in Manitoba in 2012 and 2013 as well as third favourite festival in Canada in 2013.

Along with the awards the RFM board are pleased to report a major economic spin off for the area. Not only do local businesses benefit but the robust numbers throughout August long weekend are coupled with the fact that the local service groups and volunteers see a huge financial influx for their time and efforts. Recent reports put that influx in the six figure range well over 300K.

According to RFM Board President Darcy Bilous "the festival comes together with the support of 160 co-operative members, 11 board members, over 300 volunteers, sponsors and of course the thousands of fans who attend the festival each year." RFM secretary Vaughan Boles sums it up this way, "local store owners have told us over the years that RFM is better than Christmas for them."



Night Ranger Live in concert is an action packed ride full of thrills, tons of on-stage energy and more hits than one would imagine. Their amazing live show goes way beyond Sister Christian. No doubt Highway 10 will be much busier than usual Friday evening as fans will be "Motoring" up to RFM to catch Night Ranger (pictured) along with all the other main stage acts. RFM will feature more than 25 acts on three different stages throughout the weekend. Day and weekend tickets as well as camping passes are still available at the gate. (Submitted)

Manitoba Music Makers Monthly – Clubbing Fraggles!



No local area band does 80s pop & party rock quite like Clubbing Fraggles.

The power trio who's name may suggest danger to 80s television puppets to some while others may read into as a wacky group that likes to hit the clubs — either way it's a fun time when you check these guys out on stage doing their thing. They bust out a well-known variety of cover songs during their set. Everything from Cecilia (Simon & Garfunkel) to Burning Love (Elvis) may be played. Their renditions of these classics and tons more are like no other band you've ever seen or heard before.

Their expansive repertoire is all served up with an energetic, fun loving and carefree attitude. The guys have been performing since 2007 and this summer has proven to be one of their busiest yet, which has earned them the distinction of Manitoba Music Makers Monthly for July.

They play clubs, pubs, socials, community events, corporate functions, private parties or most any occasion and are affordable, reliable and professional. For booking info visit clubbingfraggles.com.

RFM MAIN STAGE SCHEDULE

MINNEDOSA CREDIT UNION MAIN STAGE HERITAGE CO-OP SECOND STAGE:

Friday Night
Barry G Player (7:15 p.m.)
Queen City Kids
Night Ranger

Saturday Night
Pigeon Park (5:15 p.m.)
Wide Mouth Mason
Moist
Tea Party

Sunday Night
Econoline Crush (7 p.m.)
The Glorious Sons
Daughtry

Friday night
44 Love Street
Red Seed
Maiden Manitoba

Saturday Night
Volume Academy
Until Red
Johnny McGuaig Band

Sunday Night
Better Than
Tremendous Dynamite
Clubbing Fraggles
Rock Candy

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FIRST AID, CPR & AED TRAINING SCHEDULE

St. John Ambulance, Canada's leader in First Aid, CPR & AED Training runs classes multiple times each week throughout the year at our Brandon Training Centre.

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