

■ CULTURE DAYS

Arts front and centre

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Staff Reporter

Stratford and Perth County will be bustling when the second annual Culture Days kicks off Friday at Factory 163 at 7 p.m.

All weekend long there will be a wide range of free cultural activities.

The nationwide event will include 800 communities with 5,500 free events and activities. Stratford and Perth County will host 50 of those activities, ranging from visual arts, music, dance, theatre, architecture, heritage, film and video, literature, culinary arts and new media.

Factory 163 will be one of the centres for the activities in Stratford.

There will be workshops in movement, arts and crafts like Scherenschnitt (paper cutting) and kilt making, acting classes with a focus on improv and Chekhovian acting and a performance by the Aerial Angels, among several others.

St. Marys will host Wall to Wall Art, and Mitchell will host Random Acts of Music.

"It's an opportunity to promote your work in a pragmatic sense, but also it's a chance to have the general public notice how much art is in everyday life," said Eileen Smith, marketing co-ordinator and lead at Hermione Presents.

On Sunday, the Stratford Shakespeare Festival will host an outdoor event called A Fayre Day in Camelot with live music, a

hawk demonstration, medieval-themed vendors and demonstrations, costumes to try on, a wig demonstration, treasure hunt and several other activities.

A Fayre Day in Stratford will run from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in Market Square and in front of the Avon Theatre.

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*Eileen Smith,
Hermione Presents*

"Canada is growing a cross-country team committed to our culture. Artists and cultural organizations, municipalities and businesses have really stepped up to the plate in 2011 to collaborate and promote the creative vitality of their communities during the Culture Days weekend. It's going to be a great weekend of celebration and fun," said Antoni Cimolino, general director of the Stratford Festival and chair of Culture Days' national steering committee.

Smith said about 4,500 people participated in the event last year. She's hopeful the second year for the event will attract about 5,000.

For a list of events around Perth County go to www.perthartsconnect.ca.

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