

Culture days go nationwide

By Heidi Riedner

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Georgina gears up and hops aboard the Canadawide culture train this weekend.

Organizers of Culture Days Georgina aim to raise awareness of the vast artistic and cultural talent that contributes to the vitality of our communities.

Between Sept. 30 and Oct. 2, Culture Days events will take place in every province and territory, with celebrations in Georgina slated for Sunday, Oct. 2.

The cross-Canada celebration represents the largest ever collective public participation campaign undertaken by the arts and cultural community in this country, says Phil Rose-Donahoe, manager of cultural services at the town and one of the Culture Days Georgina organizers.

The goal of the local event is to celebrate the vibrancy of our cultural assets and to honour the contributions they make to the economic and social well being of our communities, he adds.

Drop by the Keswick library from 2 to 5 p.m. to see performances from a wide range of talented, home-grown performers, musicians and dancers, including Georgina Idol contestants, the Queensville Players, Magoo, Connors Brothers, Blue Bridge Festival artists Ardeleana, Rhythmic by Nature drummers, Highland dancers and First Nations' artists and performers.

Other interactive activities include a collaborative mural painting, a cultural mapping exercise and video journals.

As a way to highlight the importance of the culinary arts as part of our cultural landscape, samples of First Nations cuisine and locally roasted, organic fair trade coffee from Green River Coffee, will also be served.

A series of displays from various artists and cultural organizations, films by Georgina filmmakers previously screened at the Multimedia Film Festival of York Region and information regarding future cultural activities in Georgina round out the day's roster.



PERFORMANCE. Georgina Island performers just one of the participants in the Culture Days Georgina event to raise awareness of the vast artistic and cultural talent that contributes to the vitality of our communities. Between Sept. 30 and Oct. 2, Culture Days events will take place in every province and territory, with celebrations in Georgina slated for Sunday, Oct. 2. *File photo/Susie Kockerscheidt*

The event is the continuation of ongoing efforts to redefine what culture means to Georgina.

Since late 2010, a cultural planning steering committee that represents artists, cultural organizations, the municipality, the province and business, has organized a series of cultural forums with the purpose of mapping the area's cultural assets and better understand the value of culture as a catalyst for economic development and community enrichment.

Mary Baxter, director of library services for Georgina's public library, says these type of events help raise the profile of artists and cultural organizations of all types.

"The time is right for all Georgina residents to come together and celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of our cultural community and to demonstrate our continued commitment to arts and culture," she says.

Launched in 2010, Culture Days is a collaborative volunteer movement to raise the awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement of all Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities.

Started by The Canadian Arts Summit, Culture pour tous (producer of les Journées de la culture), Canada Council for the Arts and The Banff Centre, the program has federal and provincial support, as well as a number of national business and media partners.

Visit www.culturedays.ca or email prosedonahoe@georgina.ca or mbaxter@georgina.ca for more information and details.

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