

Media Release
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Pomp and Ceremony

Pomp and ceremony mix with diversity and energy at the Kanata-Carleton Cultural Festival, a day to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday in style. Even before the festival is officially opened the audience will witness impressive performances.

Nothing generates pride of country better than a military presence and the 84th Regiment of Foot established to fight alongside the British against the American rebels during the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783) will feature a re-enactment drill demonstration and firing of muskets.

Following this flurry of activity, Brenda Grant, playing the bagpipes, will lead the procession of dignitaries across the green to the stage. And who better to declare the festival officially open than Ontario's only First Nations Crier, Daniel Richer. Richer has been the National Capital Region Crier for 36 years. Storyteller, actor and town crier, he shares his knowledge of Mother Earth. His legends and stories speak of respect and harmony among all living things. Not only has Daniel won numerous championships he has completed two National tours in every Province and Territory.

Once the dignitaries have spoken and the day been blessed—let the performances begin. The entire day will abound with talent from across the region. The Ottawa Valley is well known for its fiddlers and step dancers and not a foot will be still as the Ottawa Valley Fiddle and Step Dance Association strut their stuff.

The diversity of our nation is healthy in West Ottawa so bring your dancing shoes and take a workshop with Maria Sabaye Moghaddam. She teaches Persian regional dances and has performed at Harbour Front in Toronto and the Shenkman Center. As an immigrant to Canada, Maria's extols on how inclusive this amazing country is. Saba Persian Dance brings together performers of various ages, abilities, and origins. The theme for this performance is diversity and dance-ability drawn from Iran, India, Middle East, and Africa. One person in a wheelchair performs alongside able bodied dancers.

Young talent abounds at this festival. Youth X Canada: Music Tour 2017 is a unique and inspiring project designed to discover, explore and celebrate the diversity of Canada's geographic, cultural and musical landscapes as seen from the perspective of young, aspiring Canadian music artists. As we join together to celebrate our country's 150th Anniversary, this energetic group of young music artists from different musical backgrounds, traveling across Canada will make an appearance in Kanata.

This is a small sample of over 50 performances scheduled at the Earl of March Secondary School and Sandwell Park. The Kanata-Carleton Cultural Festival will be filled with back-to-back entertainment to delight everyone from 10 am to 9:30 pm, Saturday, May 27. Thanks to generous sponsors and the City of Ottawa, residents can come out to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday **FREE** of charge. Be sure to visit www.kanatacarletonculturalfestival.ca

Attached – photo Maria Sabaye Moghaddam
84th regiment