

Newsletter / February 3, 2011

Join the Culture Days 2011 Movement!

With 2011 well upon us, it's time to look ahead to the second annual Culture Days event, which will take place September 30 to October 2, 2011 in all 13 provinces and territories.

Did you participate last year? Are you thinking about participating again this year or do you want to participate for the first time? Check out blog articles like "[Six Tips for Community Organizers](#)" and "[Other Ways to Get Involved](#)" to help shake off the winter blues and start planning for your amazing Culture Days weekend this fall.

Still not sure where to start? Have questions? Check out the [FAQs](#) or better yet, [get in touch with your regional contacts](#) or email questions directly to info@culturedays.ca; we're here to help! You may also want to consider participating in the highly informative and helpful Culture Days Info Sessions; these free teleconferences will help you plan, organize and prepare for Culture Days 2011.

We'll be launching the first in a series of these Info Sessions on Tuesday, February 22nd at 2pm ET where the focus will be answering any and all questions about how you can get involved, in any capacity, with Culture Days 2011. You can [register here to secure your spot](#).

Watch this space for more details about upcoming sessions, guest hosts and specific topics that will be covered in these bi-monthly sessions.

Share Your Culture Days 2010 Stories

Send us YOUR Culture Days story! Did you organize or participate in a 2010 Culture Days event that you want to tell the world about? Like the [success of Culture Days in the Durham region](#)? Do you have photos you want to share? An inspiring Culture Days experience that you think everyone should know about? Here's your opportunity to share them! Email stories@culturedays.ca and [upload your Culture Days photos to Flickr](#). You can also [post to the Culture Days blog](#), add your comments, photos and videos to [Facebook](#) or [tweet](#) with the #culturedays hashtag and we'll re-tweet your message. Your story may end up being featured in the new "Community Spotlight" section of the newsletter or even in the 2011 Culture Days campaign!

Community Spotlight



"Community Spotlight" is a brand new section of the Culture Days Newsletter where a spotlight is shone on some of the outstanding stories, events, communities, activities and organizers that emerged from the inaugural 2010 edition of Culture Days. This section will also start to spotlight similar items as Culture Days 2011 begins to unfold. Are you planning something spectacular? Know anyone who should be spotlighted? Let us know! Email us at stories@culturedays.ca



Did you know?

The results of the independent national survey conducted by The Strategic Counsel, following Culture Days 2010, have been analyzed to show results specifically for provinces and communities. Here are a few intriguing facts:

- Awareness of Culture Days was highest in the provinces of Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- The highest levels of public participation reported were in Saskatchewan and BC, with 17% in each of these provinces reporting attendance of some cultural event during the Culture Days weekend.
- Although nearly all participants reported being satisfied (97%), the level of satisfaction was stronger in the smaller communities (89% reported being very satisfied) as compared to the larger communities (74% reported being very satisfied).
- Among those aware of Culture Days in both the general public and participating communities surveys, the most reported sources of awareness regarding Culture Days' activities were the local media (52% and 59% respectively), word of mouth (27% in both surveys) and CBC (26% and 25% respectively).
- Within the participating communities residents of the larger (58%) and smaller communities (55%) were equally likely to report participating in arts, heritage or cultural activities either as an amateur, as a hobby or as a professional.

[The full report is available online, along with other results from Culture Days 2010.](#)



What People Are Saying About Culture Days

Every week we come across new stories about how people across the country are reacting to Culture Days.

From Regina, Saskatchewan:

Dear Friends,
I was privileged to participate as a story performer at the Flin Flon, Manitoba Culture Days celebration. (September 24 - 26, 2010)
The organizers of this event planned and presented a spectacular range of cultural events with participants representing all ages and a wide range of interests.

In particular, the participants were drawn not only from the local community but from other communities in the northern region. This representation provided an excellent variety of cultural expression and served as a means of 'connecting these communities' through the arts. This connection is important as the population centres of the northern region are nominally quite small and separated by vast distances.

Certainly, tribute is to be paid to the entire Flin Flon Culture Days organizing committee and volunteers. I would also offer my most sincere recognition of the individual efforts of Crystal Kolt, Flin Flon Arts Board Cultural Coordinator, who was the inspiration, 'spark plug' and 'encouraging force' that made this event such a rewarding experience for all.

All the best,
Vincent Murphy
Regina, Saskatchewan
www.imaginevincentmurphy.com

From Ontario's Durham Region:

The tourism sector spearheaded Durham region's successful Culture Days event. Read more about their approach in this [article from The Art of Transition](#). You can also [view Durham Tourism's 2010 promotional spot for Culture Days on YouTube](#).

Here is a selection of quotes from the [article about Durham Region's Culture Days celebration](#):

"We had over 1000 art-making, paintwielding, dancing, singing, foot-stomping, scrabble-playing creative-minded souls at the gallery over the weekend. It was an amazing creative coming together —an arts blast!"

Donna Raetsen-Kemp, The Station Gallery, Whitby, ON

"The RMG was buzzing with activity during Culture Days, with over 400 people visiting for tours, life drawing and exploring our collection! Best of all, we heard that many people had never been in the gallery before, and we love to see new faces. We're already excited for next year!"

Jacquie Severs, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, ON

"A Gift of Art was a melting pot of the arts in the Newcastle Community during Culture Days. The visitors to this mélange enjoyed the dichotomy, the children revelled in the freedom to create in their own special niche and the participating artists were agog at the attention riveted on them."

Ann Harley, fête A Gift of Art, New castle, ON

Mark Your Calendar for Culture Days 2011



The second annual Culture Days event will take place September 30 to October 2, 2011 – a mere eight months away!

...And start planning!



Start spreading the word and brainstorming Culture Days ideas for your organization or community. Check out the [list of activities that happened in your neighborhood in 2010](#) and talk to those who organized them; creating "cultural" hubs is a great way to collaborate and attract a large number of people to activities within your immediate vicinity. [Browse the blog](#) for tips and ideas on how to plan a great activity and get involved in 2011. Check this space for news, tips and updates on the free online registration system for 2011.

Culture Days 2010 Video

In case you missed it in the holiday newsletter, check out this [inspiring video of highlights from Culture Days 2010](#).





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