



ECHOES OF THE WORLD 8th DRUM FESTIVAL

News Release

For immediate release

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON Thursday, June 4, 2010) The annual Echoes of the World International Drum Festival is back for its eighth year on June 17, 18, 19, at Clergue Park, in downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Hailed as the only international outdoor drum festival north of Toronto, the Echoes drum festival offers diverse talent for all ages.

This year's event, open to all ages, will showcase mini drum making, vendors, artists, healing arts specialists, children's activities and social organizations from Sault Ste. Marie. Everyone is welcome to bring a lawn chair and stay all day to listen and enjoy the festival. On June 18, from 10:00 pm until 2:00 a.m, a Sunset Drum Circle will take place at the red door of the Bush Plane Museum to honour the summer solstice. Everyone is invited to participate and prior drumming experience is not required. There will be plenty of drums and percussion instruments to play.

Several elementary schools will bring students to the festival on Thursday and Friday so that students can learn about the different drums and drumming traditions.

"Funding for this festival changes annually; however, the support from the community continues to grow. A big thank you to all organizations and individuals helping us put together this year's event," says Jackie Fletcher, event coordinator.

During the three day festival, performers include:

- WAWATAY PERFORMERS, Local Ojibway choreographed production;
- ORANGATANGO, Salsa music stemming from Latin America;
- SEAN JESSEAU Drum soloist, drum circle instructor, drum sales (grounds);
- TAOIST TAI CHI of SSM, Art of holistic health - demonstration and interactive session; WAASAYSKUN, husband and wife duet (hand drum and guitar);
- MISSANABIE CLOGGERS, Cree dancers;
- HEALING LODGE SINGERS and WHITE BIRD THUNDER WOMEN; Aboriginal women hand singers and drummers;
- BHANG LHASSI, African jembe drumming;
- SHANNON MOAN, (accompanied by Michael Burtch and Shelia Gruner);
- ZAGHAREETS, belly dancers;
- CULTURAL GROUPS OF SSM;
- BRING THE FALLEN, local heavy metal band;
- MYSTIC MESSAGES.

A full schedule is posted on the website www.echoesdrumfestival.com.

About The Festival

The Echoes of the World festival is the vision of two Cree women with a mission to promote inter-racial understanding of the many diverse cultures of the world, and the relationship we have to each other and the earth. It is the only international outdoor drum festival north of Toronto. Most importantly, this festival allows us to identify our similarities and our differences through the sharing of traditional music, songs and dance in the spirit of peace and harmony.

2010 Echoes Drum Festival event sponsors:

Algoma University, Arts Council of Sault Ste. Marie, Canadian Heritage – Fresh Start, City of Sault Ste. Marie, Community Living Algoma, Days Inn, District of Sault Ste. Marie – Neech-ke-wehn Homes, Garden River First Nation, Huron Superior Catholic District School Board, Katimavik, Kinessenenow Corporation, Kiwanis, Michael Burtch Studio, Miramar Design Studio, Missanabie Cree First Nation, Mushkegowuk Council, Mystic Messages, New to the Sault, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Women's Council, Sault College, Sault Community Career Centre, Sault Ste. Marie Museum, Shaw, Station Mall, Sutherland, Taoist Tai Chi Society of Canada, Sault Star ,USWA Local 2724, Volunteer Sault Ste. Marie & District, Zellers.

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