
NORTH WEST TERRITORIES

FOLK ON THE ROCKS

July 19-21, 1991

Multiple styles; Arts & Crafts; Food

Info: Folk on the Rocks

P.O. Box 326

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"Folk on the Rocks" is the name of the music festival held annually on the outskirts of Yellowknife. It is organized by "The Society for the Encouragement of Northern Talent" (S.E.N.T.), a group of volunteers whose love of good music is the only reward for their efforts. It is held at a permanent site on the shore of Long Lake, about 2 km from the airport and 6 km from the city.

As the name of its parent organization implies, the focus and emphasis of the festival is music (and other entertainment) from the North of Canada. This festival is one of very few at which the audience can hear Inuit throat singing, native drumming, and other traditional forms of music, alongside mainstream entertainers from the music capitals of Canada and even the U.S.A.

This is not to say that Northern Music is the only noteworthy thing about Folk on the Rocks. Each year entertainers from all over Canada are presented on both the mainstage and the workshop stages. Top-line performers such as Buffy Sainte-Marie, Downchild Blues Band, and Murray MacLauchlan have played to enthusiastic crowds at FOTR, and unique acts like the Shuffle Demons, Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, and Reverend Ken and the Lost Followers have delighted young and old alike. Not only that, but sometimes there are even people from overseas who join in: The Bissarov Sisters from Rumania were a surprise hit at the festival a couple of years ago.

In the last few years, the festival has expanded its format slightly by adding a "Warm the Rocks" dance on the Friday night before the weekend proper begins. At this event, one or more of the acts to be presented at the festival plays for a good-time dance at one of the dance halls in town. Performers and audience have a chance to meet and get to know each other in a different kind of atmosphere, and "a splendid time is guaranteed for all".

Folk on the Rocks is now in its 11th year, and has built up a reputation among performers as a great event to play, and among audiences as a really entertaining weekend. No one goes away uninspired, and everyone says, "Let's do this again next year"! The show this year will take place on July 20 and 21, with the dance on July 19. Organizers and audience alike are looking forward to another memorable weekend of high quality music and fun!