

EASTERN MANITOBA'S STAYCATION GUIDE

PASSPORT TO *Adventure*

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Fire and Water Music Festival To Hit High Notes

Organizers of Lac du Bonnet's award winning Fire and Water Music Festival have put together an exciting line up of entertainment for the August long weekend event.

Fire and Water Music Festival is a three-day event (Aug. 1-3) featuring music and art with a focus on local and provincial talent.

Held at the former Lakers Water Ski Club site, the festival provides important opportunities for upcoming acts to introduce their talents to a broader audience and showcase their original material.

The festival is organized and run by volunteers, many of them being artists and musicians as well. The laid back environment of the festival encourages up front and personal contact with artists who often leave the stage following their performance and join the audience to catch the next act.

The 2025 lineup will be a good one with several well known Manitoba acts like Quinton Blair. When not moving on the dance

floor with his up-tempo boot-stomping brand of country music, find this nine-time Manitoba Country Music Association award winner in the roping pen or guiding people through the wilderness of Manitoba on horseback. His mainstream crossover appeal, and his ability to execute an engaging live performance to an intimate gathering or for thousands of people, have presented Blair with many opportunities to share the stage.

Madeleine Roger is a singer-songwriter from Winnipeg, skilfully accompanying herself on acoustic guitar. Her artistry as a songwriter can silence a room, uniting her lyrical prowess with breathtaking melodies that linger long after they are sung. Her newest collection of songs is a deeply personal body of work examining every nook and cranny of love and loss.

Curubandé, formerly 'Indestructible Latin Orchestra', is back on stage under a new name. Featuring heavyweights of Winnipeg

Latin music like Rodrigo Muñoz aka "Papa Mambo", Amber Epp and Jaime Chinchilla, this band is a guarantee of authentic Afrolatin genres such as Cumbia, Salsa and Merengue.

The Spectacles are a veteran trio who feature a mix of bluegrass, ragtime, western swing and older country/jazz. Despite the fact that there are only three musicians, instruments are traded frequently throughout the show featuring guitar, ragtime piano, Scruggs-style banjo, Dobro, and even musical saw duets in harmony. Whether they are playing high energy numbers or slower songs, they always swing with an unmistakable groove.

Fronted by Grammy and Juno Award-winning singer, songwriter and kazooist Jessee Havey of folk fusion band the Duhks, Jessee Havey and the Banana are a Winnipeg-based children's music duo featuring Nathaniel Good (Nation of Two) on guitar. Drawing on years of collective experience per-

forming for both children and adults, their songs focus on diversity and inclusion with live performances that are silly, engaging and fun for the whole family.

Wolf Willow is a 12-piece band that sounds like what would happen if Dick Dale had joined Loretta Lynn's band and made a wall of sound album inside the Grand Ole Opry. *Soul of Slippery Butte*, their new full length album, is the much-anticipated follow up to 2021's critically praised *Old Guitars and Shooting Stars*, which dove deep into the band's sensitive side – layered with lush strings and horns, the sweet orchestra sound defined this album and era of the band.

A smaller festival with an annual attendance around the 200-person mark, Fire and Water's board of directors would like to keep improving the event and tailor it for people to attend and enjoy live music.

As an added bonus Saturday, the Winnipeg Blue Bomber Community Tour



Quinton Blair

Trailer will be on site on Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. The Lac du Bonnet Lions will also be putting on their famous fireworks display at dusk from the Lac du Bonnet dock after having to postpone their annual Canada Day light show due to dry and dangerous conditions.

This year's festival will also feature a Winnipeg River Classic Car Show on

Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

Festival merchandise including T-shirts, travel mugs, hoodies and more will feature this year's fun, vibrant and whimsical look! Tickets and camping spots are still available. Admission for children under 17 is free.

For more information on the Fire and Water Music Festival, go to their website at firewater.ca



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Boreal Shores Art Tour Back On the Road

The Boreal Shores Art Tour is getting back on the road in 2025.

Scheduled for Aug. 16 and 17, the Boreal Shores Art Tour (BSAT) is a free, road-trip worthy, self-guided art tour featuring artists at their studios or group locations scattered throughout the beautiful and diverse Boreal forest and shore regions of North Eastman. From the eastern shores of Lake Winnipeg through the Winnipeg River system to the Whiteshell Provincial Park, the tour showcases artists from diverse communities who love to explore all aspects of visual art.

First held in 2017, visitors met 34 talented artists at 16 locations during the two-day tour.

Two years later, over 700 people travelled the BSAT route, making an average of six stops each. Many people made it to every stop – an accomplishment that can only be done by devoting the entire weekend to driving the route.

Artists sold just under \$40,000 worth of art in those two days with reports purchased items were sent across Canada as well as the UK, Germany, France and the U.S. Less than half of the visitors were from the region while the rest came from all parts of Manitoba as well as

from B.C. to the Maritimes.

Tour brochures and maps are available online on the BSAT website (borealshoresarttour.ca) and at locations throughout the tour area. Peruse the brochure ahead of time to see who, what and where you want to go and see on the tour weekend. Pick up a passport at any of the locations and get it stamped at each stop. It's a perfect day or weekend road trip to take with your friends or family.

The Boreal Shores Art Tour is also good for businesses across North Eastman. Tour goers spend thousands of dollars buying gas, eating meals and paying for overnight accommodations.

Displaying Work

For those displaying their work in the BSAT, artwork must be original in concept, design and execution. Items must have artistic merit and

be of acceptable quality. Accompanied by digital photos of the artwork, applications will be reviewed by an independent and anonymous board of whose decision to admit or not, using these guidelines, will be accepted by the board of BSAT.

A total of 35 artists will display their wares at 20 tour stops in 2025, all the way from Victoria Beach to Falcon Lake. Those already pencilled in include Pinawa's Stu Iverson, Rick Cline and Ingrid Butenschoon in Seven Sisters, Mary Louise Chown in River Hills, glassblower Gordon Boyd in Victoria Beach and painter George Tanner in Falcon Lake.

Boyd's blown glass work focuses on functional objects, primarily drinkware. He says a well-crafted glass, made with care and intention, can transform simple moments into something special.

"I believe the objects we

use every day should be more than just practical – they should be meaningful, bringing joy and a sense of connection to our daily lives," Boyd stated.

Using traditional glassblowing techniques, he create unique, handmade pieces that celebrate the beauty of craftsmanship. Each piece is individually formed, embracing the fluidity and unpredictability of molten glass.

"I'm drawn to the way glass captures light, movement, and energy, making each object feel alive in its own way. While my work is functional, I approach it with the mindset that objects can hold personal significance beyond their use."

Iverson is one of the region's most prominent photographers and has viewed several international locales through a lens. Iverson compliments his images



File Photo

Traditional glassblower Gordon Boyd.

by utilizing unique lighting produced by environmental conditions such as hoar frost and fog. His vast portfolio is not limited to any particular

topic, but Iverson has an interest in capturing images of wildlife and nature.

continued next page



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File Photo

The Boreal Shores Art Tour encourages art lovers to explore the beauty of eastern Manitoba.

Art Is a Stimulus

He said the Boreal Shores Art Tour, along with other art sales and tours, is an important incentive for artists and helps reinvigorate the artistic community.

"For all of us, the fact that there is an art show coming up acts like a stimulus to get ready, be prepared (and) finish some of those things we have been thinking about doing," Iverson said. "Having the tour, meeting the public

(and) selling their art is great for most artists."

Iverson said the tour itself is as equally stimulating for viewers, many of whom look on it as a way to take a drive with family or friends and see the countryside or communities they have not visited in a while.

"For people going on tour we believe that taking a drive... talking with artists and others on the tour and seeing new

art will be a great mental break from day-to-day concerns," he said. "Most people are just having fun and enjoying a low stress activity."

From a personal note, Iverson said art has to be shown, discussed, liked, disliked, sold or not sold to allow for the creation of more art.

"And of course the ultimate compliment is when somebody wants to buy it and hang it on their wall," he said.

Happy Barn Acres Puts On a Smile

As you travel into Beausejour on First Street North off of Hwy 44, you may have noticed a big red Happy Barn on the West side of the road. This iconic Beausejour symbol is the namesake for Happy Barn Acres, located at 72096 First St. N. in Beausejour, right beside the Beausejour Daylily Gardens.

Happy Barn Acres was born from a passion of gardening and an appreciation for all the good a garden can provide for the individuals tending it. Mother and daughter duo Myrna and Mallory Black started dream-

ing of ways to share more of the garden wonders, and the family came along for the ride in the creation of Happy Barn Acres.

Entering their fourth year and producing on one-acre of gardens, Happy Barn Acres has become known for their roadside Friday Farm Stand, which is stuffed with seasonally fresh vegetables, herbs and pre-arranged flower bouquets. Some of the most popular items include garlic, slicing cucumbers, lettuce and bouquets. Loyal customers have learned to come early in the day for the best selection of produce and flowers! For those more serious about fresh seasonal produce, a limited number of vegetable CSA spots are offered each year and sell out fast.

The little acreage also offers flower-based experiences, including U-pick flowers for individuals or groups,



and bridal or event flower buckets. For both experiences, visitors are welcomed onto the yard to explore the large flower garden and pick whatever catches their fancy. Through the power of fresh air, healthy gardens and pretty flowers, visitors leave with a smile on their face and a sense of bliss. The U-pick flower experience is especially popular for mother and daughter dates, friends looking for an excuse to get together and catch up, and even Grandma's birthday outings! It is our joy to share the garden space, and we

love to welcome visitors and provide a space for them to receive the benefits of interacting with nature through wandering the gardens and picking flowers.

Happy Barn Acres provides custom-made bouquets or table arrangements, within their seasonal limitations. One of their favourite challenges is to create something stunning with what is available each week.

They also partner with The Floral Merchant in Beausejour to provide fresh picked, home grown flowers for significant events such as weddings and funerals.

The gardens are looking absolutely fabulous this year, and are ready to welcome visitors of all ages to experience the wonder of a thriving garden and take home a bunch of flowers. Check out their website to book your visit at <https://happybarnacres.square.site/> or email them for more information at info@happybarnacres.com

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Immerse yourself in history at the Pioneer Village Museum and the Manitoba Glass Works Historic Site. A summer must-see is the Beausejour Daylily Gardens, boasting over 600 daylily cultivars in showstopping colour, it's the perfect place for a picnic!

Round off your summer at Shades of the Past car show, a farmers market, and on our golf courses. Make a splash in our outdoor pool, walk The Rail Trail and top it all off with delicious ice cream & a burger!

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Kick up the dust at Septembers Double-B Ag Festival; it's a rodeo, midway, parade, and more! We pump adrenaline all winter long, boasting over 250km of groomed snowmobile trails and hosting the Canadian Power Toboggan Championships in December and March!

Unwind and experience warm hospitality at our local restaurants and shops. You'll find us 40 minutes Northeast of Winnipeg on HWY #44. Follow us on social media or learn more at ourhomeyourhome.ca

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Pioneer Village Museum Heritage Day Aug. 17

The Pioneer Village Museum's 27th annual Heritage Day event in Beausejour will be one for the history books on Aug. 17.

In 1967, the foundation of the museum was set with the moving of the Sebright School and Julian Ilchena's collection of antique agricultural artefacts to Beausejour's Centennial Park.

The Broken-Beau Historical Society was officially formed in 1972 with a committee of seven appointed by the joint councils of the Town of Beausejour and RM of Brokenhead.

Over the next five decades, the Pioneer Village Museum continued to accumulate new items, which has steadily turned the site into a faithful recreation of a small pioneer village. The museum now contains a school, community hall, train station, blacksmith shop, barbershop and even the boyhood farmhouse and barn of former Governor General Edward Schreyer.

The Heritage Day event

was started as a way to draw in those from as far as possible to visit the Pioneer Village Museum and get a chance to appreciate the rich history of the Broken-Beau area that the Broken-Beau Historical Society has managed to reclaim.

This year's festivities run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning with a pancake breakfast and the opening of the museum buildings and concession stand. There will be live entertainment, dance performances, a Red River settler skills demonstration, a candy scramble for the kids and pony rides. Opening ceremonies will be at noon where local dignitaries and members of the Broken-Beau Historical Society will speak to the importance of the event. A tractor parade and a threshing demonstration will take place at 1 p.m. Food will be available for sale.



The always popular threshing demonstration will take place at 1 p.m.

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