



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Celebrate the Language of Love at
the 2014 Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Érable!**

We are thrilled to be celebrating St. Valentine's Weekend at the 13th edition of the **Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Érable**, taking place at Nanaimo's Beban Park Auditorium on 2300 Bowen Road. And, you are invited to celebrate *l'amour* at our popular annual event!

Taking place from February 14 to 16, with a special Valentine's Day Family Dance announced for the evening of Friday, February 14, there will be much to share with your loved ones at Vancouver Island's largest bilingual festival, including great dance music and performances — and pizza *à la québécoise* featuring traditional sweet and savoury French Canadian traditional food ingredients.

Begin by sharing sweets with your sweetheart — that would be maple sugar products, of course! Choose from a multitude of syrups, candies, and the amazing *tire sur la neige* (toffy on snow). Not a sweet tooth, you say? Then, fall in love with authentic *poutine*, *tourtières* (meat pies), *ragout* (meat stew), and other tasty traditional French Canadian treats.

And what would a traditional sugar shack be without lively musical entertainment? **Bon Débarras** and **De Temps Antan** from Quebec and **Jocelyn Pettit** from the Lower Mainland will have you burning calories quickly with their rhythmic fiddle, harmonica, and accordion music. Many other favourites return to the Festival to get you tapping your feet, clapping your hands, and dancing with your loved ones.

Plus, the whole family will love singing along in French and English with **Will Stroet and the Backyard Band**, long-time duo **Fanny Starchild & Vegari Cendar**, and other children's festival performers.

Bon Débarras will highlight the school educational tour presented to students from Francophone and French Immersion schools. Students will participate at performances in schools on February 11 and 12 and at Beban Auditorium on February 13 and 14.

So share in the *joie de vivre* of the Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Érable! *On vous attend avec plaisir!* We'd love to see you!

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