



Nanaimo, BC, December 18, 2008

### The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Érable Artist Revealed

The 2009 Annual Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Érable is gearing up and Vancouver Island has Maple in the air! The ninth edition of the Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Érable theme will celebrate the Acadian culture and their francophone traditions through dynamic music, entertainment, activities, food and the Festival's famous, maple toffee on snow! Nanaimo's Maple Sugar Festival is now known as the largest bilingual event on Vancouver Island, a celebration of Canada's founding nations and two official languages. The Festival prides itself in welcoming thousand of visitors annually.

Presented by the Francophone Association of Nanaimo and Canadian Maple Delights, the ninth edition of the Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Érable is pleased to introduce the most high caliber artists to date.

**Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**, will kick start the festival at Nanaimo Art Gallery with a special Gala Unveiling Reception of Painting and Doll Exhibits by New Brunswick Artist Gisèle Leger-Drapeau, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

**Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**, marks the opening day of the Festival events at Beban Park with unique musical stylings from Nova Scotia's own internationally acclaimed artist Blou and Autochtone-Wendat group from Wendake, Quebec's Ataensha.

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**, British Columbia's own Rene Turmel (the Maple Man) will share his sugary stories and adventures to the Festival-goers. The party gets ramped up with a real 'soiree de cuisine' (traditional kitchen party) with Louisianan's Rocking Fiddler, Waylon Thibodeau, Prince Edwards Islands Vishten brings a mixture of French, Irish and Scottish sounds to the party and New Brunswick artist Art Richard will have the whole audience dancing on their chairs. Topping the night off Suroît, an incredibly electric group, sweep up their audience by playing over thirty instruments, from bones to washboards, through violin and bagpipe.

**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, the final day of the Festival brings back some of the incredible artists from Saturday including Vishten, Art Richard, Ataensha, Rene Turmel (Maple Man). Blou and Waylon Thibodeau will be back pairing their performance for the final concert on Sunday to bring the house down!

Furthermore, these famous Francophone artists from all over North America will also be sharing the stage with emerging local and provincial artists such as, Sand Northrup, Nova, Isa et Chou and so much more for the pleasure of the Festival audience.

**Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**, is the Grand Finale concert at the Port Theatre with one of the most dynamic groups in Canada, The McDades who bring a fiery, cutting edge sound; fusing French and English performances with an incredibly innovative style, they are a must see and hear!

For more information visit the L'AFN website at [www.francophonenanaimo.org](http://www.francophonenanaimo.org) and click on the Festival icon or call us at (250) 729-2776 or via e-mail at [afn@francophonenanaimo.org](mailto:afn@francophonenanaimo.org)

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