

## Press Release

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### *Mill Race Festival – still improving after 16 years!*

**CAMBRIDGE** — The streets of downtown Cambridge will once again be filled with unique musical sounds and colourful dancers as the Mill Race Festival of Traditional Folk Music kicks off for its 16th year.

It takes place during the Civic Holiday weekend, starting Friday, Aug. 1 (from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.) and continuing on Saturday, Aug. 2 and Sunday, August 3 (from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m.) in downtown Cambridge.

In the effort to continuously improve the experience for festival-goers, a new stage, the Civic Square stage, has been added this year on Dickson Street, near the new City Hall.

Meanwhile, the Main Street stage will have a full slate of performers on the Saturday of the festival, while the Mill Race park amphitheatre, off of Water Street, continues to provide a beautiful backdrop for music all weekend.

There is also, as always, a wonderful children's stage with children's musicians, clowns and fun activities.

Also as a new venue this year, the Royal Canadian Legion building on Ainslie Street will host weekend sing-arounds where people can bring their guitars and sing in an informal folk club setting.

The local pubs, the Golden Kiwi and Cafe 13, will be places where people can enjoy food and a good brew with traditional music.

With more than 30 music and dance groups performing at the festival, this is a truly unique event, not only in terms of the sheer number and variety of high quality performances, but also in the fact that it is still a FREE ADMISSION festival, supported by donations.

Drawing from England, Scotland and Ireland, to the Middle East and Asia, all the way around the world back to our home in Canada, this festival focuses on preserving traditional forms of music and dance from different cultures.

Bringing English, Scottish, Irish and Celtic flavors are Crucible; Johnny Collins, Jim Mageean and Graeme Knights; Rallion; Deborah Quigley & Martin Gould; Farewell to Erin and Rant Maggie Rant.

There is also Silk Road, with music from China; M'rabet Ensemble, with

sounds from the Arabic, Turkish and Andalusia traditions; Rembetika Hipsters, mixing a popular Greek blues music genre with other Middle Eastern and Balkan flavours; Roger Scanurra and Ritmo Flamenco, with their Flamenco music; Tilt Kao, with traditional music from Estonia and Baltic neighbours, and Zubrivka, a Ukrainian folk band from Toronto. Foxtail, an award-winning bluegrass band is also playing the festival this year, as well as the Cambridge-based Allison Lupton Band and Tethera, a local group specializing in traditional English music.

On the children's stage, popular performers such as Andrew Queen and the Fuzzy Fellers, Jake, Robert Davis, plus Relative Harmony, will have kids and adults singing and dancing.

Different groups of Morris Dancers will move around during the festival, doing traditional dances in colourful costumes. The arts and crafts booths will also add to the flavour.

Attached is the text of the festival program details and biographies for the various performers. The biographies of performers can also be found online at:

<http://www.millracefolksociety.com/>

We are also selling a full version of the Mill Race program, which contains the schedule of all the acts. People can purchase advance copies of those programs at the following locations:

### **CAMBRIDGE:**

MacAulays Music  
1118 King st East  
Cambridge, (Preston) On.  
519-653-5060  
[www.macaulaysmusic.com](http://www.macaulaysmusic.com)

The Golden Kiwi Pub  
47 Dickson St.  
Cambridge (Galt)  
519-622-3722  
[www.goldenkiwi.ca](http://www.goldenkiwi.ca)

Cafe 13 Main St. Grill  
13 Main St  
Cambridge (Galt)  
519-622-1799  
[www.cafe13.ca](http://www.cafe13.ca)

Classical Guitars & Accessories  
19 Queen Street East

Cambridge (Hespeler)  
519-651-0588  
[www.classical-guitars.ca/](http://www.classical-guitars.ca/)

McDougall Cottage  
89 Grand Ave. South  
Cambridge (Galt)  
519-624-8250  
[www.region.waterloo.on.ca/](http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca/)  
(click visiting; region owned museums)

Cambridge Tourism  
750 Hespeler Road  
Cambridge, ON  
519-622-2336  
[www.cambridgetourism.com](http://www.cambridgetourism.com)

Enchanted Castle  
51-53 Main St  
Cambridge, ON  
519-621-6824  
[www.enchantedcastlegallery.com/](http://www.enchantedcastlegallery.com/)

**Kitchener:**

A Second Look Books  
33 Queen St., S.  
Kitchener, ON  
N2G 1V8  
(519)744-2274

**Waterloo:**

Words Worth Books  
100 Kings St. S.  
Waterloo, ON  
N2J 1PS  
519-884-2665  
[www.wordsworthbooks.com](http://www.wordsworthbooks.com)

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Part of the Grand River Folk Community [www.grandriverfolk.org](http://www.grandriverfolk.org)