

FOLK ON THE ROCKS

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

During the week of July 19th to 21st Folk On the Rock will be hosting their annual summer music festival. This year's theme: Endless Summer. For 29 years Folk On the Rocks has been bringing music to the shores of Long Lake. The Festival is one of the NWT's premier musical events and is known as a culturally diverse event, which includes a 50/50 split between northern and southern performers.

The Festival has also supported Northern performers and has been a great opportunity for these Northern performers to play along-side and collaborate with established southern performers. This exposure is incredibly valuable for the Northern performers and helps them enhance their current skills.

Folk on the Rocks should be very proud of their contribution to the Northern music scene. They've made a real difference to the lives of many northern performers. This year the line up is spectacular, both from a northern and southern point of view. Some of the Northern Artists participating in Folk on The Rocks this year include:

- The Behchoko Youth Drummers
- Dana Sipos who released a debut album earlier this year
- Digawolf who has recently been recording his third album in follow up to the wildly popular Forrest Fire album
- Giant Con a new band on the Yellowknife scene with a fan base growing daily

- Godson the NWT's premier rapper, and
- Master of bass and chapman stick and a story teller of the highest quality, Mr. Pat Braden

These northern artists will have an opportunity to collaborate with a number of highly accomplished performers from outside of the Northwest Territories. These include but are not limited to:

- Multi talented Royal Wood
- Kobo Town who are a traditional calypso band.
- Swank a punk rock and roll band
- Country artist Dennis Allen
- Dragon Fli Empire
- Forest City Lovers
- Kaiva
- Old Man Luedeke, who I actually think is quite awesome;
- Red Power Squad
- T. Nile, and lastly,
- The multi-Juno award winner, Sam Roberts.

It's going to be a great show. I encourage everybody in Yellowknife to attend over the weekend, come out and enjoy the performances. You won't be disappointed.