

**Monday, April 24, 2017**

COMMUNITIES/CULTURE/HERITAGE--Ports to Showcase Local Music,  
Culture, Food during Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta

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Crab dinners, axe-throwing, free concerts and a fiddling ceremony are only a few of the activities that will take place at ports across the province during Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta.

Nova Scotia's ports are lining up state-of-the-art culinary, musical and artistic demonstrations to complement the visit of tall ships around the province. Tall ships will visit the province between June 30 and Aug. 16. For a listing of events go to <http://discoverthewonder.ca> .

"We will welcome the world to Nova Scotia this summer and showcase our food, our music, our diverse culture and maritime traditions," said Mark Furey, Minister responsible for Tourism and Waterfront Development. "This event is a wonderful celebration as well as an important tourism attraction for our province."

"Today we're sharing a taste of the exciting programming from around the province as part of Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta," Jennifer Angel, acting president and CEO, Waterfront Development. "Each community is showcasing what makes their community unique and special, drawing on wonderful culinary, entertainment and history elements. No two ports will be alike."

"Shelburne is looking forward to welcoming visitors to participate in RDV2017 Tall Ships Regatta to celebrate both our local maritime heritage as well as Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday," said Karen Mattatall, mayor of the Town of Shelburne.

Tall Ships are visiting 10 ports in Nova Scotia with a sail past in the Annapolis Basin, past Annapolis Royal. Vessels will stop in Sydney, Louisbourg, St. Peters, Port Hawkesbury, Pictou, Pugwash, Halifax, Lunenburg, Shelburne, and Digby between June 30 and August 16. Ship access will be free to the public.

Tall Ship organizers also want to hear from people who want to participate as volunteers. Ms. Angel said volunteers are critical to the success of the event and it's a chance to share their pride in Nova Scotia as they welcome visitors from around the

world. People can put their names forward at <https://register.eSourceEvent.com/RDV2017Volunteers>

Program highlights around Nova Scotia this summer include:

- Sydney: free concerts plus a fiddling ceremony with performers from across the island, Aug. 4-6
- Louisbourg: annual Crab fest celebration provides delicious seafood and coincides with tall ships, Aug. 4-6
- St. Peter's: a Mi'kmaq themed evening, a traditional Acadian dinner and a Costume ball on the banks of the Canal, Aug. 4-6
- Port Hawkesbury: Port Cities, Matt Minglewood and The Barra MacNeils will perform in lively concerts, June 30 to July 2
- Pictou: a Canada Day wake-up call with fireworks is followed by breakfast and day-long celebrations, June 30 to July 2
- Pugwash: the community celebrates on land and sea with the Soapbox Derby and the Recycled Boat Races. Part of Pugwash Harbourfest (plus the Gathering of the Clans, July 1), June 30 to July 2
- Lunenburg: celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic with music, including a special tribute to Jim Pittman, a fisherman from Lunenburg who was known as the Singing Cook and a founder of the Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival, Aug. 10-12
- Shelburne: A Darren Hudson lumberjack show featuring axe-throwing, Aug. 14-15
- Digby: a culinary pavilion with scallop shucking demonstrations and tastings, historic story-telling, and two days of music and arts showcases, Aug. 15-16
- Annapolis: J.P. Cormier will perform a free open air evening concert. Bluenose II will lead a small fleet of tall ships past Annapolis Royal with a fantastic fireworks send off, Aug. 16

Details on the events in Halifax and Dartmouth waterfronts were announced previously.

People are encouraged to visit [discoverthewonder.ca](http://discoverthewonder.ca) and take part in a new social media contest, with a chance to win one of four Nova Scotia Prize Packages, and a Legendary Nova Scotia Experience grand prize.

Tall ships will visit Canada to honour the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation in 2017 as part of a 7,000 nautical mile transatlantic race, led by Sail Training International.

They are scheduled to stop at host ports in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. A large event is scheduled for Quebec City, from July 18 to July 23, giving hundreds of thousands of people the opportunity to admire the majestic beauty of these cathedrals of the seas. Sail training opportunities for people of all ages are available at [sailonboard.com](http://sailonboard.com) .

The province and the Government of Canada/Heritage Canada have provided financial support to make RDV 2017 happen.

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Tall ships will visit the province between June 30 and August 16.

Minister responsible for Tourism, Mark Furey, says the event gives Nova Scotians a chance to showcase our food, music, culture and maritime traditions to the world.

For a listing of events go to [discover-the-wonder dot c-a](http://discover-the-wonder.ca) .

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Media Contacts: Lisa Jarrett  
Cell: 902-717-4199  
Email: [Lisa.Jarrett@novascotia.ca](mailto:Lisa.Jarrett@novascotia.ca)

Kelly Rose  
Waterfront Development  
Cell: 902-222-6297  
Email: [kelly.rose@wdcl.ca](mailto:kelly.rose@wdcl.ca)