



PRESS RELEASE
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Gander, NL - January 24, 2008

Gander launches anniversary celebrations

In 2008, the Town of Gander celebrates its 50th anniversary as an incorporated municipality. A full year of special events and heritage projects is being planned for what promises to be a fun and exciting Come Home Year for former Ganderites scattered around the globe, as well as local residents and visitors.

In officially opening the year-long celebrations at a press conference and Community Dance Jan. 24, Gander Mayor Claude Elliott noted the Town has much to be proud of.

"From its inception, Gander has remained in the forefront of science and technology, in fields ranging from aerospace and communications to waste disposal and environmental stewardship," Mayor Elliott said. "It has likewise taken a leading role in social programming, offering a quality of life that has bolstered consumer confidence and stabilized housing prices through numerous crises, both real and perceived, to the extent that MoneySense magazine recently listed Gander as one of the top 10 places to live in all of Canada."

A core committee has been established to oversee the planning and implementation of the anniversary events and projects, comprised of three Town Councillors and four private citizens. Councillors Rob Anstey, Dave Blundon and Wilson Hoffe are joined by local residents Janet Brake, Jeanne Collins, Nick Connolly and Roy Sceviour.

The Town itself has sponsored and organized six milestone events over the coming year, including the Community Dance marking the official launch of celebrations.

Professional clown Beni Malone brings the Wonderbolt Circus to town March 1 for Gander's 50th Birthday Party, where children can also enjoy party games, contests, face painting and other activities.

A 50th Anniversary Dinner at Hotel Gander May 22 includes a trip down memory lane with a big screen video featuring historic film footage set to music.

Gander's Great Big Anniversary Concert starts at 2 p.m. Saturday, August 2, at Cobb's Pond Rotary Park featuring Great Big Sea. Staff are currently finalizing an island-wide sales outlet for tickets and an announcement on the opening act and other guest performers is expected in April.

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In cooperation with the community theatre troupe Avion Players, a Dinner Theatre will be held on four nights in October.

The official anniversary celebrations come to a close Nov. 27 with the Gala Concert, featuring performances by a variety of local choirs, entertainers and community groups.

The Town is also working with the Gander International Airport Authority and 9 Wing Gander to organize a joint event reflecting their central influence on the community's social and economic development.

Mayor Elliott emphasized that these core events are merely a framework for the overall celebrations.

"We encourage other community groups, organizations and private businesses to become involved by sponsoring or organizing their own events to celebrate Gander's unique culture and heritage," Mayor Elliott said. "This is your community. You, the citizens, past and present, have made Gander what it is and it is your accomplishments we are celebrating."

More information and free anniversary downloads are available on the Town's official website at www.gandercanada.com.

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