

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 14, 2005**

## **ESPLANADE ANNOUNCES OPENING EVENTS** **Discover the Esplanade Oct. 22 – Oct. 31**

**Medicine Hat** – The Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre and the Esplanade Gala Committee have released the Esplanade's opening schedule for its "Discover the Esplanade" 10-day opening.

Book-ended by Randy Bachman on the opening day and Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Dracula on Halloween night, the 10-day opening event features presentations by local and professional groups, openings to two art gallery exhibitions and one travelling museum exhibition, free entertainment, children's programs and more.

Mayor Garth Valley says, "The main goal of this committee, which brings together a cross-section of musical, theatrical, historical, artistic and educational talent, was to present something for everyone in order to showcase the true versatility this building brings to our cultural life."

The Esplanade Gala Committee was charged with planning the opening celebrations for the Esplanade and has been active since last October. The committee, made entirely of local volunteers, includes:

- Mr. Wayne Craven, Chairman
- Mr. Derek Martin
- Ms. Joanne Collier
- Ms. Judy Dickie
- Ms. Evan Tonin
- Ms. Darlene Ford
- Mr. Boyd Craven

**Tickets go on sale 9 a.m. Monday, September 19, 2005 and are available:**

- **in person, ONLY at City Hall Information Kiosk, Main Floor, City Hall, 580 First Street SE**
- **online, at Ticket Central: [www.tixx.ca](http://www.tixx.ca)**
- **by phone, ONLY at Ticket Hotline: (403) 502-8777**

Watch for the new Esplanade website to be launched Monday, September 19, 2005 at [www.esplanade.ca](http://www.esplanade.ca).

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**ATTACHED: Discover the Esplanade Schedule**

For further information, please contact:

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City of Medicine Hat  
(403) 529-8181

Wayne Craven  
Chairman, Esplanade Gala Committee  
City of Medicine Hat  
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# ESPLANADE

## ARTS & HERITAGE CENTRE

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### **Esplanade Art Gallery**

Two exhibitions run from **October 22 – December 4 with opening receptions at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 23.**

#### **Clay Ellis's solo exhibition *Eight Miles of Barbed Wire.***

Born and raised just north of Medicine Hat, Alberta, where his family began ranching in the 1880s, Clay Ellis is known internationally for his large scale steel and ceramic sculptures. Ellis created this new exhibition: *Eight Miles of Barbed Wire*, specifically for the opening of the Esplanade Art Gallery.

#### **Momentum: Selected Works from the Art Collection.**

Since the first acquisitions in 1981, the Art Collection has grown to almost 1000 art works in every medium. ***Momentum*** lassoes the creative energy of the Collection in works ranging from paintings, photographs and ceramics by well-known local artists, and sculptures, digital works and mixed media works from around Canada, to historical landscapes celebrating our region and thought-provoking artistic investigations of contemporary issues.

### **Esplanade Museum**

The opening exhibition in the Heritage Museum Gallery: ***Fifties Forever*** presents a nostalgic look at a decade of optimism following WWII. Curated by the Glenbow Museum.

The exhibition runs from **Oct. 22, 2005 – Jan. 15, 2006 with an opening reception at 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 23.**

### **Esplanade Archives**

The Esplanade Archives will be operating as an open house during the opening Gala and will open for full reference and research services starting November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Esplanade Theatres**

The Main Performing Arts Theatre will be open for public viewing through public tours during the opening Gala. The Studio Theatre will feature free entertainment each weekday.

# E S P L A N A D E

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## A R T S & H E R I T A G E C E N T R E

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Date	Time	Event	Description
<b>Saturday, Oct. 22</b>	11 a.m.	<b>Opening Ceremonies and Ribbon Cutting</b>	
	Noon	<b>Gallery Exhibitions open to public</b>	
	Noon	<b>Esplanade Open House</b>	
	12:15 p.m.	<b>Darren Reinhardt as Elvis</b> Free Stage in the Studio Theatre	
	8 p.m.	<b>Randy Bachman</b> Main Performing Arts Theatre <b>Tickets: \$39+s/c</b>	Randy Bachman is a Canadian Legend in rock and roll, known for his work with The Guess Who, Brave Belt and Bachman Turner Overdrive. After selling over 40 million records, the musical marvel brings it all to the Esplanade for the Opening Night Celebrations.
<b>Sunday, Oct. 23</b>		<b>Gallery Exhibitions open to public</b>	
	1 p.m.	<b>Opening Receptions for Momentum, Clay Ellis and Fifties Forever</b> Gallery Foyer	
	2 p.m.	<b>Heritage Ecumenical Church Service</b> Main Performing Arts Theatre	Medicine Hat's first churches: St. John's Presbyterian, Fifth Avenue Memorial United, St. Barnabas Anglican, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic, Heights Baptist (originally First Baptist), The Salvation Army and St. Paul's Lutheran, come together to celebrate the opening of the Esplanade. Clergy representing these churches, and led by Rev Jim Hillson, have developed a contemporary service that gives thanks for our heritage, celebrates the opening of the Esplanade, and hopes for the future both in our churches and the arts. Entertainment includes: a 140 voice choir led by Adele Armstrong, the St. Barnabas Church Praise Band, Native Drummers and more. There will be a freewill offering with proceeds to The Salvation Army Family Support Centre.
	8 p.m.	<b>The Road Hammers</b> Main Performing Arts Theatre <b>Tickets: \$24+s/c (\$30 at door)</b>	Headlining country festivals across the country, the Road Hammers are a five piece no nonsense, hard hittin' mix of country, Southern Rock and blues singing songs of maverick culture and the open road. With a Number One Album and recent Canadian Country Music Award for Best Group of the Year, the Road Hammers are sure to entertain.

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<b>Monday, Oct. 24</b>	<b>Gallery Exhibitions open to public</b>	
	12:15 p.m.	Free Entertainment in the Studio Theatre
	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Public Tours</b>
	2 p.m.	<b>Multicultural-themed Tea</b> Ewart Duggan House <b>Tickets: \$5</b> Theme: Western Europe Presented by: Multicultural Folk Arts Council
	3:30 p.m.	<b>Presentation by Alberta Centennial Ambassadors</b> Esplanade Meeting Room
8 p.m.	<b>Celebration Symphony</b> Main Performing Arts Theatre <b>Tickets: \$15</b> <b>12&amp;Under \$10</b> A community musical extravaganza featuring Medicine Hat Community Concert Band, MHC Academy Orchestra, handbell ringers and a city-wide massed choir of 160 voices! The evening's programme will conclude with Beethoven's "Choral Fantasy" featuring full orchestra, choir, guest soloists and pianist Elaine Dobek-Shandro. Another highlight will be the world premiere of "I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes" by Calgary composer Allan Bevan, written especially for the opening of the Esplanade with the generous assistance of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.	
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 25</b>	<b>Gallery Exhibitions open to public</b>	
	12:15 p.m.	Free Entertainment in the Studio Theatre
	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Public Tours</b>
	2 p.m.	<b>Multicultural-themed Tea</b> Ewart Duggan House <b>Tickets: \$5</b> Theme: Germany Presented by: German Canadian Harmony Club
	8 p.m.	<b>The Greatest Canadian: Tommy Douglas</b> Main Performing Arts Theatre <b>Tickets: \$14+s/c (\$16 at door)</b> <i>The Greatest Canadian, TOMMY DOUGLAS: The Arrows of Desire</i> , written by noted Canadian actor and playwright, John Nolan, is an exploration of Douglas's life, beliefs, passions, battles, dreams and humanitarian accomplishments during 44 years as Premier of Saskatchewan and Member of Canada's Parliament in Ottawa. Presented by Fut in the Hat Theatre
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 26</b>	<b>Gallery Exhibitions open to public</b>	
	12:15 p.m.	Free Entertainment in the Studio Theatre
	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Public Tours</b>
	2 p.m.	<b>Multicultural-themed Tea</b> Ewart Duggan House <b>Tickets: \$5</b> Theme: Africa Presented by: SEARCH Society (South Eastern Alberta Racial Community and Harmony Society)
<b>Thursday, Oct. 27</b>	<b>Gallery Exhibitions open to public</b>	
	12:15 p.m.	Free Entertainment in the Studio Theatre
	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Public Tours</b>
	2 p.m.	<b>Multicultural-themed Tea</b> Ewart Duggan House <b>Tickets: \$5</b> Theme: Canada/North America Presented by: Multicultural Folk Arts Council
	8 p.m.	<b>Chilliwack</b> Main Performing Arts Theatre <b>Tickets: \$27+s/c (\$30 at door)</b> Canadian classic band Chilliwack is back together for a classic rock reunion performance featuring songs like "My Girl (GONE GONE GONE)", "I Believe", "California Girl", "Lonesome Mary", "Raino", "Fly at Night" and "Watcha Gonna Do." With multiplatinum and gold albums, Chilliwack is part of Canadian rock and roll folklore and should not be missed.

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<b>Friday, Oct. 28</b>	<b>Gallery Exhibitions open to public</b>	
	12:15 p.m.	Free Entertainment in the Studio Theatre
	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Public Tours</b>
	2 p.m.	<b>Multicultural-themed Tea</b> Ewart Duggan House <b>Tickets: \$5</b> Theme: South America Presented by: Worlds of Women Together
8 p.m.	<b>Best of Broadway</b> Main Performing Arts Theatre <b>Tickets: \$15</b> <b>12&amp;under \$10</b>	Medicine Hat's Musical Theatre community gathers together for one night to celebrate the Best of Broadway with songs and performances from notable productions like: Oklahoma, The Music Man, Sound of Music, My Fair Lady, Stop of World, Les Miserables, and featuring a special preview of the upcoming Chicago production at the Esplanade in November.
<b>Saturday, Oct. 29</b>	<b>Gallery Exhibitions open to public</b>	
	10 a.m.	Children's Program For Children aged 5 and 6
	11 a.m.	Children's Program For Children aged 5 and 6
	7 p.m.	<b>The Saturday Night Serenade and Chocolate Extravaganza</b> Main Performing Arts Theatre <b>Tickets: \$32+s/c</b> <b>Starring Tommy Banks, Louise Rose and the Medicine Hat Big Band</b> Tommy Banks brings a fifty-year international jazz career to the Esplanade stage along with noted pianist and singer Louise Rose, who has studied under the tutelage of Oscar Peterson, but has now soared to her own heights in the jazz world. Enjoy an hour of entertainment and then let your sweeter side indulge in a mountain of chocolate delights.
<b>Sunday, Oct. 30</b>	<b>Gallery Exhibitions open to public</b>	
	1:30 p.m.	<b>Heritage Film</b>
	3:30 p.m.	<b>Book Launch</b> Local author Malcolm Sissons launches " <i>The Bear and The Bone King</i> " and will be available to autograph books.
<b>Monday, Oct. 31</b>	<b>Gallery Exhibitions open to public</b>	
	8 p.m.	<b>Royal Winnipeg Ballet's DRACULA</b> on Halloween Night! Main Performing Arts Theatre <b>Tickets: \$39+s/c</b> CANADA'S ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET brings its SIXTY-FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE to the Esplanade stage on Halloween Night with the magical production of Dracula. (Performance has been extended to November 1 <sup>st</sup> ) Complete with flying bats, dancing gargoyles and mysterious transformations, Mark Godden's <i>Dracula</i> is contemporary ballet at its finest.