

Largest-ever Canadawide arts and cultural participation event comes to Prince Edward Island this weekend

Dozens of free Island activities planned for second annual Culture Days celebration

The second annual Culture Days event kicks off in hundreds of cities and towns across Canada this weekend.

Culture Days features free, hands-on interactive activities, Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, from coast to coast to coast that invite the public to discover and participate in the cultural life of their communities.

This year the pan-Canadian grassroots movement has taken hold in some 800 communities (up from 700 last year) as more artists, organizations and supporters have mobilized to work together to promote their cultural resources and talents concurrently under the Culture Days banner. Some 5,500 free activities are planned across the country.

On Prince Edward Island, there will be approximately 40 free events offered across the province, triple the number organized in 2010. These activities span a wide range of cultural disciplines and practices including: visual arts, crafts, music, dance, theatre, architecture, heritage

and literature.

Several Island public library branches are offering art-making workshops, the municipalities of Summerside, Stratford and Cornwall are all hosting interactive events and several artists and artisans across P.E.I. will open their studios to the public and hold free, hands-on demonstrations.

Henk van Leeuwen, executive director of Culture P.E.I. and chair of the P.E.I. Culture Days committee, says the event is a chance for the cultural community to engage in a "show and tell with all Islanders, and a chance for Islanders to experience and celebrate the diverse and inter-disciplinary range of artistic and cultural creativity, innovation and expression in our province."

The detailed roster of P.E.I. Culture Days events can be found at www.culturepei.ca or at <http://pe.culturedays.ca/en/activities/list>, where Islanders can also find an online planning tool to help them create a personalized agenda of activities happening during Culture Days weekend.

