

Canada 150 -- SnOasis 5: Canada Alive!

The 'Friends' group hosts SnOasis each winter, a free carnival for families in Feb/March. For 2017, the Museum wants to host a community-wide event, centred at the Point and Sand Bay. Primary consideration would be winter activities, but a heritage slant: sleigh rides, jam-pail curling, road hockey, ice-fishing, putting up ice.

Museum 'Friends' would still lead programming for children and young families: maple syrup in the snow, etc. But we will ask local groups to lead other activities. An article in the paper could explain the event and that we are seeking involvement, and therefore proposals from community groups. For example, the Nordic Ski club could organize snowshoe races and a marshmallow roast. The Lions may track down a sleigh-ride team and organize rides. Maybe they'll also set up a shelter and serve hot chocolate.

To minimize work for organizers: participation, and at what level, would be up to each community group. Would also be up to them to organize and man their event.

Some ideas:

- Putting up ice on Sand Bay. Many local groups still put up ice, so we would line-up professional help. It would be nice to have horses pull in the blocks. Could use blocks to build a fort, or simply a wind-break for other winter activities.
- Ask First Nations, Métis or commercial fishermen to set a net. Advertise the times for both setting the net (an interesting process in itself) and for hauling in the catch. Could also provide instruction around proper way to clean/fillet fish.
- Hold an ice-fishing derby.
- Have areas where people can warm up. Wind-breaks could be created out of snow blocks or woven from boughs – events in themselves. Provide manned fire stations (barrels or firepits).
- Provide the means to cook bannock on a stick.
- Provide other food stations – set up outside or at Nanicost, maybe both – serve wild rice and pea soup, moose sausages, skewers of wild meat (need FN help), popped wild rice, bannock, hot cocoa.
- Pour maple syrup in the snow; have an old-fashioned taffy pull.
- Provide sled dog rides and sleigh rides through the Point area.
- If ice smooth, plow a rink area or plan road hockey tournaments.
- Snowshoe races, jam-pail curling, tobogganing.

These are just suggestions. It is inconceivable that we would see all these events, but it would be nice to have a well-rounded winter event.

A lot of this depends on the NOHFC intern position we have applied for as I cannot do this alone – but planning needs to start now. I would like Duane to write an article, and we'll send out letters to clubs and organizations, asking them to come up with a plan and submit a proposal.

It would be important to have Town participation (may need equipment support), and partner with other stakeholders: First Nations, Métis and other cultural and service groups.