



Comité organisateur de la 29^e Finale des Jeux de l'Acadie de 2008 à Halifax

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UNIQUE CULTURAL GATHERING OF ACADIAN YOUTH IN GRAND-PRÉ DURING THE 29^e FINALE DES JEUX DE L'ACADIE

Halifax (May 22, 2008) - The Organizing Committee of the 29^e Finale des Jeux de l'Acadie is proud to announce that a unique cultural event will be organized at Grand-Pré National Historic Site for more than a 1000 young athletes, and several hundred chaperones and heads of delegations on Sunday, June 29th. This historical gathering, one of the largest ever organized for Acadian youth from all Atlantic provinces, is the highlight of socio-cultural activities organized along with sports events during the 29^e Finale.

The national historic site of Grand-Pré commemorates the Expulsion of Acadians from the major centre of Acadian life from 1682 to 1755. A major tourist attraction for visitors to Nova Scotia, Grand-Pré is for all Acadians the cradle of their ancestral homeland and a site of special importance. A major gathering of dynamic young Acadian athletes in a site where tragic events once threatened the very existence of the Acadian community is therefore particularly significant.

"The *Société Promotion Grand-Pré* is happy to welcome in Grand-Pré all the participants in the Jeux de l'Acadie", says Victor Tétreault, Executive Director of the *Société*. "This visit falls exactly within the mandate and the mission of the *Société*, which is to promote the Acadian history and culture as it relates to Grand-Pré."

The nine delegations will be arriving by bus and will be greeted by interpretive guides. Thanks to the support of Canadian Heritage, groups of athletes will take part in educational activities at several locations on the site. Many of them, who have never been to Grand-Pré, will be able to view the multimedia film on the Expulsion and its aftermath, while others will be taken through the museum to discover what life was like in the first Acadie. A unique picture of all participants will be taken to commemorate this gathering.

The evening will end with the popular Acadian group *Grand Dérangement* from the French shore, Baie Sainte-Marie. Fresh from tours in Europe and in the USA, the group, which has a new CD out, will no doubt keep spectators clapping and dancing with their dynamic mix of Acadian folk-rock, world music, and highly creative stage antics.

The Comité organisateur de la Finale is thrilled to offer this exceptional event to all athletes and give them the opportunity to take full advantage of their stay in Nova Scotia, not only for the promotion of sports values, but also to raise their cultural and historical awareness, fostering their sense of leadership.

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