

The 2013 River City Round Up takes family fun to new heights and showcases Aboriginal culture

Today, media partners, prominent government officials, and school students gathered at City Hall to celebrate the kick off of this year's River City Round Up – an annual citywide festival that celebrates Edmonton's proud history of agriculture and western heritage.

"Edmonton is the best place to build, create and make something. And this is a great way to celebrate one of the wonderful things Edmontonians have made – a festival that brings community together and showcases some great examples of our cultural heritage. This is a very exciting time for our city and I am looking forward to enjoying the festivities with my family," says Mayor-Elect Don Iveson.



This year, the festival is introducing two new components – a community pancake breakfast and the Traditional Harvest. On November 2, to start the day off right for visitors to the Square, festival-goers are invited to a free pancake breakfast with all the fixings and entertainment from Olivia Wlk from 9 until 11 a.m. After getting their fill, visitors can wander over to the Traditional Harvest (11 a.m. until 4 p.m.) for a look at the ways Aboriginal people harvest natural resources in a way that reflects the past. Aboriginal artists today maintain that connection to the past and their culture by using resources much in the same way their ancestors did.

"Edmonton is steeped in some amazing culture that still thrives today and we are pleased to bring the Traditional Harvest to the River City Round Up calendar of events," says Tamara Fahlman, a member of the River City Round Up project team. "People of every age will have an opportunity to explore Aboriginal Culture and learn about teepee etiquette, fishbone art and traditional tea-making. And a free pancake breakfast is always a great way to start the day!"

This year's River City Round Up will take place from November 1–10, 2013. The official kick-off celebration of the festival spans two days in Sir Winston Churchill Square and features a wide range of events, including the 23rd Annual Chili Cook Off, Cowpoke Corral, and a variety of cultural performances and interactive activities for visitors of all ages. The first 500 children down to the Square at 11 a.m. will receive a free plush T-Bone stuffed animal and backpack! Attendees are encouraged to bring a cash or food donation for Edmonton's Food Bank to help warm some bellies this winter. Two of Northlands' signature events will also be taking place during the River City Round Up including the 40th anniversary of Farmfair International from November 3–10, 2013 and the adrenaline-pumping Canadian Finals Rodeo from November 6–10, 2013.

For more information about River City Round Up visit:

rivercityroundup.com

Media contacts:

[Karen McDonnell](#)
Communications Advisor, Civic Events
City of Edmonton
780-442-0854

Tamara Fahlman
Public Relations
River City Round Up Festival
780-974-0583

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3rd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square NW
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2R7
www.edmonton.ca

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