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**THE STAGE IS SET! TIM HORTONS OTTAWA DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL  
Announces 2011 Free Entertainment Line-up**

**OTTAWA, April 28, 2011** - Paddles hit the water for the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival (THODBF) on June 17-19, 2011 at Mooney's Bay Park. North America's largest dragon boat festival features non-stop dragon boat racing, endless family activities and a spectacular free entertainment series with Canada's top musical talent.

The Trews, who won *Fan's Choice Video of the Year* and *DVD of the Year* at the 2011 East Coast Music Awards, will help welcome attendees to THODBF on Friday June 17. Whose hits include *Not Ready To Go*, *Highway of Heroes*, and their new hit single *Hope & Ruin*. Joining the Trews are The Stanfields, the Nova Scotia roots-rockers who won the Rising Star of the Year Award at the 2011 East Coast Music Awards. These bands will set the tone for a phenomenal weekend of free entertainment and paddling.

Steven Page's distinctive voice is among the most instantly recognizable in Canadian music. Steven will be appearing in support of Page One, his first solo release since leaving the highly successful band, Barenaked Ladies. Keeping the dragon boat crowd entertained on the beer garden stage will be Ottawa native and local favorite, Jim Bryson. Having recently completed the *Falcon Lake Incident* tour with the Weakerthans, he will be making his first appearance at the festival. Also appearing on Saturday will be breakout indie pop rock group San Sebastian, who took MuchMusic's disBAND by storm and Ottawa's Amos The Transparent, bringing their popular indie folk to the stage.

On Father's Day, Sunday June 19, attendees can treat dad to a showcase of local Ottawa artists. Fathers can relax to the beautiful songs of Chris MacLean, nominated for the 2010 Canadian Folk Music Award for English Songwriter of the Year. Returning to THODBF is MonkeyJunk, which recently won three Canadian blues awards at the Maple Blues Awards.

Also not to be missed over the weekend are Ash Koley, with their upbeat pop hit *Don't Let Your Feet Touch The Ground*. The Dunn Boys and their east coast flavoured Celtic rock, Silver Creek, who bring their own brand of southern rock and unique parade style band Mike Essoudry's Mash Potato Mashers, which will round out the expanded weekend line-up.

New this year is the Craze-Crew Stunt Team of BMX riders who will be soaring through the air thrilling spectators. Cultural performances will showcase Ottawa's diversity with the traditional lion dancers, lead performer Fana Soro of the dynamic West African ensemble Masabo, a bag piper and Japanese drummers Oto-Wa Taiko. The Tim Hortons Children's Area will feature interactive and educational activities including magician Chris Pilsworth, Little Ray's Reptiles, Lil' John, Radical Science and more. For a full list of free entertainment, visit [www.dragonboat.net](http://www.dragonboat.net).

The Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival entertainment series is made possible by the continued support of Canadian Heritage's Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage, Celebrate Ontario and the City of Ottawa Partnership Program.

**About the Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival**

The Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival is the largest festival of its kind in North America and is one of Ottawa's must-attend summer events. This 3-day festival is hosted at Mooney's Bay Park from June 17-19 and features non-stop dragon boat racing, with a total of 190 team and 5000 paddlers. Over 70,000 spectators take in cultural activities, live music, a variety of vendors/exhibits and family-oriented entertainment. For more information, visit [www.dragonboat.net](http://www.dragonboat.net), [www.facebook.com/ottawadragonboat](http://www.facebook.com/ottawadragonboat), [www.twitter.com/ottdragonboat](http://www.twitter.com/ottdragonboat).

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