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

**OTTAWA, May 31, 2012** – Paddles hit the water for the 19th annual Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival (THODBF) on June 22-24, 2012 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 concert series with Canada's top musical talent.

Spirit of the West, who have achieved status as one of the most beloved 'Legacy Artists' in Canadian history, will help welcome attendees to the THODBF on Friday June 22. They've been inducted into the Halls of Fame / Lifetime Achievement Categories by the Western Canadian Music Association and the Society of Composers and Music Publishers of Canada, and have used their inestimable charms to wheedle complimentary pints out of barmen in at least 9 countries. With 13 albums, four gold and two platinum, to their credit, Spirit of the West are responsible for such songs as: '(And if) Venice is Sinking', 'Five Free Minutes', 'Save This House', 'The Crawl' and 'Home For a Rest', the song that has been called Canada's honorary national anthem. Joining Spirit of the West will be the unbridled energetic live show of Paper Lions from Belfast, Prince Edward Island. Also joining them will be the unabashed dance floor rock of Toronto, Ontario's Whale Tooth. These bands will set the tone for a phenomenal weekend of free entertainment and paddling.

Saturday June 23, will feature concerts throughout the day headlined by David Usher. David has sold over 1.3 million records. He has won 5 Junos including 2002 pop album of the year. He has had 10 different singles hold the #1 spot on radio, and 10 singles in the top ten including his first french language single, *je repars* which was #1 at radio for 7 weeks. Supporting David will be 2011 New Group of the Year Juno Award winners Said The Whale, who deliver a sunny west coast indie pop/bubble gum folk, with breezy harmonies and shimmering guitars. Kingston based indie rock duo PS I Love You will open the evening with their fuzzy guitars and thundering rhythms that recently saw guitarist Paul Saulnier listed in SPIN Magazines 100 Greatest Guitarists of all time.

Additional Saturday afternoon concerts include the wild unpredictability and remarkable talent of New York based Canadian, Alexander Fairchild, the unique brand of raw symphonic chamber pop of Portland's Loch Lomond. Canadian folk musician Craig Cardiff's soft voice and guitar loops, Ottawa Valley's, The Claytones who masterfully spin their melodic, vocal driven, brand of roots and folk pop duo Hark The Herons.

Keeping the dragon boat crowd entertained on Sunday June 24, will be the vivid songwriting and eclectic instrumentation of local favourites The Acorn, who will be making their first appearance at the festival. Also appearing on Sunday will be the pop folk of Montrealer David Martel. The classically trained folk pop of Julie Brunet's solo project Grenadine and Montreal based The Unsettlers, an eleven-piece band of time-traveling troubadours, specializing in dark polkas, menacing waltzes, horse-drawn lullabies - all filtered through the creaking floorboards of a whiskey-soaked saloon.

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 a community based, not-for-profit event that began in 1993 as a small one day event that has now grown into a three day celebration of the arts, sports, culture and heritage. Currently in its 19th year the festival is recognized as North America's largest dragon boating event with 204 teams in corporate, community and competitive categories. For the first time in its history the festival will extend programming on each day of the event introducing various new components including a new Friday night opening ceremony, new Parade of Champions, an additional day of racing, brand new Friday and Saturday late night headline events. The festival offers FREE admission to multiple stages with world class entertainment, amusement attractions, extreme sports demonstrations, a variety of artisans, exhibitors, delicious culinary treats, main tent beer garden, a new beach side bar, endless family fun with the Tim Hortons Children's Area and non-stop racing. 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).