



Our Festival gets better each year... here's just a sampling of comments we've received about our Solstice Festival.

"Thank you so much for everything. I didn't get a chance to talk to Quartette but the boys and I all agreed that your festival was one of our best gigs ever. Very special and the crowd was fantastic. Thanks so much for your gracious hospitality. I'm sorry that we were in such a rush. It would have been nice to relax and visit for a bit afterwards. Anyway, you've really got something wonderful happening there and I wish you all the best. We had a fabulous time.

*directed to Kelly Morstad, Executive Director, Parkland Solstice
from Cindy Church, a member of Lunch at Allen's and Quartette,
Solstice Sunday's headline act*

"I wanted to thank you all for another fantastic weekend!!! The entire event was wonderful and so much fun for our whole family. The kids' area was great (despite the rain) and my kids had a blast with their friends. The music was stellar... the bar service was friendly and fun. Cars were great, didn't try the food but the kids did and there were no long line-ups. Truly a remarkable job by all and I thank you for your time and effort in making this such a great community. We are so very fortunate.

*directed to "the hard-working souls" who volunteered their
time and energy for Solstice '07 from a community resident*

"Parkland puts the SOUL in Soulstice and it is the volunteers and staff who are the SOUL of the whole thing."
quote from an appreciative community resident

"The Concert in the Park this year was great. Every year we look forward to it but it was especially good this year. Thank you to everyone involved. Yes, even the people in the condos loved it."
*from community resident living in the condominium
complex, very CLOSE to the noise and action*

"Although we have lived in Parkland for 15 years this year was our first Solstice Festival. We haven't been at the park for a number of years and were extremely impressed with the changes and additions. The Solstice event was well planned and we really enjoyed the two days of entertainment. Congratulations to the President, Board and volunteers for a job well done!"
from a long-time community resident

"This was the first year my husband and I have been able to attend the Summer Solstice Festival - it was well worth the wait. Congratulations to Kelly Morstad and all the staff and volunteers who put so many hours into making this event such a success. We invited friends from other communities to join us for the concert on Saturday night and they were blown away by the organization and talent on display. As one of them said 'Bonavista may have a lake but you have this great event. I'd trade any day.' Thanks again to all who made this happen. We'll be back!"
from a community resident

A huge thanks for all the efforts you ... poured into the Solstice Party. The art, the music - it's a summer rain erasing the drought in my soul. Beautiful!"
from a community resident

I want to say Thank You so much to all of you involved with the Solstice Festival this year. I don't know that any of us can appreciate how much time and effort you all put in to make this such an outstanding event. Our family very much appreciates your efforts!
from a community resident



The following came from a Park Manager at a neighbouring lake community. He eloquently sums up our Festival and his experience at Solstice 2008:

Wasn't that a Party!

Firstly, thank you for extending the offer of tickets to your fellow resident associations. Those that missed the event, truly missed seeing how ideas and challenges can turn into opportunities.

My family, friends and I arrived Saturday afternoon with lawn chairs in hand, no fully knowing what to expect. Redeeming our tickets for wristbands was quick and we soon found ourselves standing somewhat amazed determined what to do first. We staked out a table, returned the lawn chairs to our vehicles and explored the park. We all concurred that there the activities and interests to meet the needs of the full spectrum of the audience. Absolutely amazing!

With food and drink tickets in hand we were now set for the afternoon. We settled in to our seats and loved the sheer intimacy and caliber of the performances. Such a great line up of talent! The jazz band, guitar virtuoso Jack Semple, Lindsay Ell all prepared the audience for Jim Cuddy. The balance of entertainment followed by the fireworks capped off an impressive day.

We returned Sunday afternoon and were amazed by the performance of the girls from Edmonton and equally delighted with Jennifer Warnes closing out the show.

In his closing remarks, the stage announcer commented that the goal of the festival is not to be large, but great and indeed this was accomplished.

In my work experience, I have designed, developed and delivered many special events and know the hours it takes in advance to put on the "show". Though many volunteers contribute their time and talent towards the many different aspects of an event, I know that you and your staff worked especially hard preparing the facility for the weekend. Now that it is over there is even more work putting everything back into storage for another year. The transformation of Park 96 is indeed eye opening and should demonstrate the potential to all of us on just what can be done. Not that every park or lake needs to copy Park 96 but rather look for those unique opportunities to further generate interest in these community facilities. Creating interest is not always about building something new but rather taking what you have and adapting it.

You have done an amazing job! We will be back next year!

G. Clayton
Park Manager, Lake Midnapore