

MEDIA RELEASE: for Tuesday, March 4, 2014

KL's Winter Carnival & Homecoming Week Receive Top 100 Festival Rankings

In the final hours of Kirkland Lake's 18-day Winter Carnival, The Kirkland Lake Festivals Committee received word that both Homecoming Week and Winter Carnival had received Top 100 Festival Awards from Festivals and Events Ontario.

Kirkland Lake's Homecoming Week and Winter Carnival were the only two festivals in Northeastern Ontario to receive the prestigious award rankings. The only other Northern Ontario event to make the list was Mattawa's Voyageur Days.

The annual Top 100 Award rankings recognize the most well-known and respected festivals in the province. It's the second time Homecoming Week and Winter Carnival have made the list, but the first time both events were ranked in the same year.

Kirkland Lake's Winter Carnival features 18 days of events organized by the Festivals Committee and several other local organizations. The history of Winter Carnival dates back to 1952.

Annual Winter Carnival highlights include live concerts, the AuRico \$50,000 Ice Fishing Derby, the CJKL Carnival Queen Crowning and Fashion Show, the Rotary hockey tournament, the Skating Club's Ice Show, NorthernTel Kids Carnival and several free kids events sponsored by K.L. Gold.

The Festivals Committee has been organizing the annual Homecoming Week celebrations for Kirkland Lake since 2007. Many of the biggest names in Canadian music have performed at the Community Complex during Homecoming festivities.

Homecoming Week events include live concerts, a free Canada Day celebration at Civic, an extreme park competition, a local food fair, free kids events, an atv-utv rally, golf tournaments, fireworks and more.

KL Festivals Committee Chair, Julie Richard-Gorman says "we share these awards with our many volunteers and sponsors. Without them, these amazing events would not be possible".

The Festivals Committee is already finalizing details for this summer's Homecoming Week celebrations. Concert announcements are expected to be made in the coming days.