

Welcome to the 2nd Annual



Where Sport, Culture and Tradition Meet

July 22 & 23, 2023

Restoring the races in traditional waters

For the first time in more than 100 years, the 1st annual Four Fires Festival saw the return of Indigenous canoe races in False Creek. A major success attracting over 300 canoe racers and a crowd of 20,000 throughout the weekend, the Festival is back in 2023. Teams from up and down the west coast of North America will join for a weekend of celebration when the canoes return to race once again. Multiple age categories, from children to elite athletes will compete in the heart of downtown Vancouver as they strive to push the limits of human performance.

You are invited

You are receiving this invitation because we want your club or representatives of your nation or tribe to attend the Four Fires Festival in Vancouver, Canada. Many nations have current racing teams while others are rebuilding their own capacity and reclaiming parts of their past. Whether attending to inspire your youth to start a club, learn about canoe making, or to compete – we welcome you all.

Beyond the races we will offer a cultural showcase of indigenous art, entertainment, and food. If you know artisans or food vendors who might want to set up at the Four Fires Festival, please let us know. We will also have:

- Designated Elders parking and/or pickup/drop off area
- An Elders lounge
- On-site camping options
- Paddler’s breakfast on first race day

Your Hosts



DICKIE LOUIS



MIKE BILLY SR.

Co-hosts Dickie Louis, Celtic Sunset Canoe Club from Musquam Nation and Mike Billy Sr., North Vancouver Canoe Club from Squamish Nation welcome you to the Four Fires Festival.





Race Formats

We will hold standard races, but will aim to include some fun and interesting options on Sunday too (to be announced)

Singles	Doubles	6 Man	11 Man
Mens	Mixed	Mens	Mens
Womens	Mens	Womens	Womens
	Womens		
16 & Under	16 & Under	16 & Under	16 & Under
13 & Under	13 & Under	13 & Under	13 & Under
10 & Under	10 & Under	10 & Under	

Race course

The circuit is larger for adult races. One of the race hosts will explain all races on the morning of each day.





Entertainment

SATURDAY, JULY 22

Stage opens at 11 am with DJ's
Starring Rex Smallboy and Pacific
Sound Entertainment/Time Geometry
throughout the day.

- 12:00PM Event opening – Bob Baker
and Eagle Song Dancers
- 1:30PM Alex Wells
- 2:30PM Sekawnee Baker
- 3:30PM Burnstick
- 5:00PM George Leach

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2022

Stage opens at 11 am.
Starring Rex Smallboy and Pacific
Sound Entertainment/Kory Roach
throughout the day

- 12:15PM The Louis Riel Metis
Dancers and Musicians
- 1:30PM Iskwew Singers
- 2:45PM Sandy Scofield
- 4:00PM Andrea Menard
- 5:15PM Indigenous Resistance
Rap with Rex Smallboy,
Kiva Mh and Earthchild.

Camping/RVs

Our racing venue, Concord Community Park, is fenced and closes at night. We will have a security guard on site, so clubs may park an RV or set up a tent within the park to stay with their canoes. We will have portable toilets and hand washing stations just for paddlers, a BBQ available for use, and some surprises for our overnight guests as well.



Connect with us

We will be active with our social media accounts. If your club or group is on Facebook or Instagram, connect with us! We will absolutely follow you back and share images and updates. You can also tag us and/or use the hashtag #FourFires



@FourFires.ca

KEY CONTACTS

To register a team: race@fourfires.ca

To become a vendor: vendors@fourfires.ca

To perform: performances@fourfires.ca

General inquiries: info@fourfires.ca

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