





Welcome to Ile-à-la-Crosse 250.

From July 3–8, 2026, we gather to honour 250 years of story, strength, and spirit in one of Canada's oldest communities.

This celebration brings together culture, resilience, and community pride through canoe races, cultural performances, Métis and Cree storytelling, live music, food, and time shared with family, friends, and visitors. More than an anniversary, this is a homecoming: a chance to honour the past, celebrate the present, and look ahead together.



Welcome to Sakitawak,

This week, we gather with pride and gratitude to celebrate 250 years of the rich history, culture, and resilience of our Île-à-la-Crosse Métis community.

This milestone is an opportunity to honour the generations of families who have lived, worked, and built their lives here, preserving traditions, language, and values that continue to strengthen our community today.

We recognize the contributions of all those who have helped carry forward a legacy of perseverance, kinship, and respect.

As we celebrate this remarkable anniversary, may we reflect on our shared history, celebrate our vibrant culture, and look forward to a future filled with opportunity, unity, and pride.

Thank you to everyone who has come together to mark this special occasion. May this celebration be a time of connection, remembrance, and joy for all.

Myra Malboeuf
Mayor - Île-à-la-Crosse



Greetings from MP Buckley Belanger on the 250th Anniversary of Île-à-la-Crosse (Sakitiwak)

Two and a half centuries ago, a community put down roots on these shores — and from that day forward, Île-à-la-Crosse has been a place where history lives, where culture thrives, and where hope endures. Today, we celebrate not only the years behind us, but the promise ahead. May the next 250 years shine even brighter.

Buckley Belanger

MP - Desnethé, Missinippi, Churchill River



Greetings from Athabasca MLA Leroy Laliberte on the 250th Anniversary of Île-à-la-Crosse (Sakitiwak)

Tansi/E'dlanet'e (Hello), to all my friends and family,

It is exciting to celebrate this amazing milestone with you all. This is not only a historic event for your community to be proud of, but this is an important time to be recognized by the rest of the province and country.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, our ancestors came together to build a precious community. Sakitiwak, for generations, has brought many people to this place in times of celebration, mourning, healing, and building. In comparison, Saskatchewan has been in existence since 1905, Canada since 1867; Ile-a-la-Crosse had already been here. This, to me, is again proof that our peoples have called these lands home since time immemorial. It is unbelievable to think about the many momentous events that have taken place here since then, all of which have led us to this moment.

During a significant occasion such as this one, I am reminded of the Saskatchewan motto, “from many peoples strength.” As you celebrate, I ask you to reflect on all the outstanding contributions made by those of the past to get your community to this point today. Now, imagine what legacy you will leave behind for future generations for the next 250 years.

Île-à-la-Crosse is a remarkable community; it has been a second home for me and many others. Thank you, to the wonderful people of this community, for opening your arms to so many throughout the years and during this time. We celebrate with you.

Leroy Laliberte

MLA - Athabasca



Tansi, relatives and friends,

It is an honour to welcome you to the Île-à-la-Crosse 250th community celebration. This is one of the oldest Métis communities built by our people with a long and proud history. Together we recognize the generations who came before us, and the work that continues today. We celebrate the strength, resilience, and culture that has defined our people for generations.

Île-à-la-Crosse stands as a place where Métis, First Nations, and non-Indigenous families built their lives through hard work, kinship, and connection to the north. Our ancestors shaped this community with determination. Their legacy continues to guide us today.

This celebration brings us together as relatives, neighbours, and visitors to share stories, enjoy music and culture, and celebrate this community. Maarsii to the Elders, Veterans, First Nations and non-Indigenous brothers and sisters, along with organizers, volunteers, and community members who made this celebration possible.

On behalf of Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, I offer my congratulations to the community and my thanks to everyone joining us. Our government is proud to stand with this community. Enjoy the festivities, celebrate safely, and take in every moment of this historic occasion.

Ekosi, Tiniki,

Glen McCallum

President - Métis Nation-Saskatchewan



I am deeply honoured to have been selected to create this amazing homecoming celebration.

It is with great pride that I share our language, culture, and homeland with all of our visitors. To those who are returning home: Marsi, ki-pikîwêk (Thank you for coming home).

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the committees who have put endless hours into creating such a welcoming atmosphere. We want all of you to truly enjoy our historic community!

môciqihâtâk

Maureen Belanger

Event Director - Île-à-la-Crosse 250 Celebration



MEALS PROVIDED



BREAKFAST

8 AM - Rossignol High School

Join us for a free pancake breakfast every morning.

Note: Due to Opening Ceremonies, breakfast will not be provided Friday, July 3.

LUNCH

11 AM - Elders Lodge

Soup and Bannock served.

Join us, served until we run out everyday.

12PM - Friendship Centre & Cultural Village

From soup and bannock to fish fry.

Join us for lunch daily.

SUPPER

6 PM - Rossignol High School

A hearty supper will be served daily to all guests with variety and selection to meet dietary needs.

FRIDAY JULY 3 / OPENING DAY

10 AM

Arrival of Canoes / Grotto - The Beach

- Chiefs and dignitaries arrive by canoe in a powerful ceremonial procession
- Honour songs
- Reenactment of the Treaty 10 signing on the beach
- Short prayer and blessing

11:30 AM

Procession to the Historic Gravesite

- Gravesite of Sister Sara Riel
- Gathering at the historic resting place of Louis Riel's sister
- Reading of Sara Riel's poem by Maureen Belanger

12 PM

Lunch Served / Friendship Centre & Cultural Village

1 PM

Official Opening Ceremony and Remarks / Arena - Main Stage

- Drum Group and Honour Song
- Land acknowledgment and official welcomes
- Opening Prayer in Michif, Dene, and English
- O' Canada performance in Michif
- Métis Anthem
- Speeches from honoured guests and local dignitaries
- Square Dancers Performance

4 PM

Community Parade / Rossignol Elementary School

Enjoy floats from surrounding communities, horse-drawn carriages, and live music as we move from the Grotto to the main stage area.

5 PM

Supper Served / Rossignol High School

7 PM

Memorial Unveiling / Rose Daigneault Pavilion

Join us in honouring our shared history and the loved ones who came before us with a meaningful memorial unveiling.

8 PM - 10 PM

Tribute Show

A tribute show honouring influences in music in Ile-à-la-Crosse. Featuring: Joe Corrigan, Nap Gardiner, Native & Night Fall, Gardiner Boys Paying tribute to: Alan Morin & the Morin Brothers, Bullrush, Mamasees, David Desjarlais, DC Corrigan

11 PM

Fireworks & Drone Show / Boat Launch Site

FRIDAY JULY 3 / OTHER ACTIVITIES

All Day	Horse & Wagon Rides / Rose Daigneault Pavilion Join former NHL player Rich Pilon for an exciting horse and wagon ride throughout the festival grounds.
10 AM - 4:30 PM	Cultural Workshops / Friendship Centre & Cultural Village Drop in throughout the day for hands-on traditional teachings. Activities: Skiff Making, Moose Hide Tanning, Diamond Willow, Dry Meat Making, Reconstructible Cabins, Dry Fish, Paddle Making, Bannock Making, Cooking Fish, Berries, Traditional Medicine Making, Leather Belt Making, Ribbon Dress and Shirt Making, Leather Mitts, Pipe Ceremony
All Day	Sakitawak Market / Curling Rink Shop local arts, crafts, handmade goods, and traditional foods all day long. Open daily throughout the celebration.
All Day	Historian and Genealogist / Elders Lodge Stop in to speak with our local historian and genealogist to discover more about the history of families from Ile-à-la-Crosse.
10 AM - 5 PM	Roots of Sakitawak Historical Display / Rossignol Elementary School Come explore the displays, learn about local families, reconnect with old friends, and discover the people and stories that helped shape our community.
2 PM	Testimonials and Singing / Spiritual Tent Join us for testimonials and singing with Arlene Hansen.
2 PM	Indigenous Business Showcase / Sakitawak Event Centre Celebrate 250 years of business. Connect with business partners, industry, and local businesses.
3 PM - 8 PM	Boat Tours / Boat Launch Experience important historical and cultural sites connected to the community with a guided boat tour.
6 PM - 8 PM	Outdoor Bonfire / Friendship Centre Cultural Village Enjoy an outdoor bonfire with tea, coffee, snacks, and storytelling.
7 PM - 11 PM	Kayaking with Local Adventure Co. / Boat Launch Get out on the water and learn a new skill with Local Adventure Co.
7 PM	Testimonials and Singing / Spiritual Tent Join us for testimonials and singing with Denny and Becky Heathen.



ÎLE-À-LA-CROSSE EVENT MAP



SATURDAY JULY 4 / BY LOCATION

	Arena - MainStage
1 PM - 3 PM	Square Dancing Competition
8 PM - 2 AM	BlackHawk Live - Ticketed Event Enjoy an evening of live music from BlackHawk and special guests. Tickets must be purchased in advance.
	Askiy Healing Lodge
2 PM	Matohtisâniwiwin COED (Sweatlodge Ceremony)
4 PM	Cultural Teachings
	Boat Launch
10 AM - 5 PM	Boat Tours Take a guided boat tour through important historical and cultural sites, including family homes and locations connected to the land, water, and stories that shaped the region.
1 PM - 5 PM	Poker Rally Join the fun and test your luck in a scenic community-wide poker rally!
2 PM - 10 PM	Kayaking with Local Adventure Co. Get out on the water and learn a new skill with Local Adventure Co!
11 PM	Drone Show A dazzling drone show will light up the sky, creating a stunning aerial celebration to mark this historic milestone.
	Curling Rink
9 AM - 5 PM	Sakitawak Market Shop local arts, crafts, handmade goods, and traditional foods all day long.
	Elders Lodge
All Day	Historian and Genealogist Stop in to speak with our local historian and genealogist to discover more about the history of families from Île-à-la-Crosse.
11 AM - RUN OUT	Lunch Served - Soup & Bannock
11 AM - 3 PM	Elders Visits Drop in throughout the day for visits, storytelling, live music, and lessons with the Elders. A light lunch will be served in the lodge for Elders.
	Friendship Centre & Cultural Village
10 AM - 12 PM	Various Activities Skiff Making, Moose Hide Tanning, Diamond Willow, Dry Meat Making, Birch Sap Boil, Reconstructible Cabins, Dry Fish, Paddle Making.
12 PM	Lunch Served
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Various Activities Le Bay Making, Cooking Moose Meat, Leather Belt Making, Leather Mitts, Traditional Medicine Making.
6:30 PM - 8 PM	Outdoor Bonfire with Tea, Coffee, Snacks, and Storytelling.

	Grotto - The Beach
9 AM	Yoga Join experienced yogi and local resident Jordyn Burnouf for yoga on the beach.
	Group Home
11 AM - 4 PM	Kids Carnival Interact with characters from Disney’s Frozen. Designed for children under 12.
All Day	MN-S Children’s Village Drop in throughout the day for educational activities and children’s games!
	Rose Daigneault Pavilion
All Day	Horse and Wagon Rides Join former NHL player Rich Pilon for horse and wagon rides throughout the festival grounds.
9 AM	Slo Pitch, Beach Volleyball, and Bolo Tournaments Let the games begin.
1 PM - 7 PM	Beer Gardens and Live Music Enjoy the musical stylings of DJ EXL, Happy Hour, and Dakota Favel.
	Rossignol Elementary School
10 AM - 5 PM	Roots of Sakitawak (Historical Display) Come explore the displays, learn about local families, reconnect with old friends and discover the people and stories that helped shape our community.
	Sakitawak Events Centre
1 PM	Texas Hold ’Em Test your poker skills!
	Spiritual Tent
2 PM	Testimonials and Singing Join community members for uplifting testimonials, music, and fellowship as stories of faith, hope, and resilience are shared through song and personal experience.
7 PM	Testimonials and Singing - Evening Join us again. Community members for uplifting testimonials, music, and fellowship as stories of faith, hope, and resilience are shared through song and personal experience.
	St. Joseph’s Long Term Care
4 PM - 5 PM	Live Music Residents of the Long-Term Care Wing will enjoy special live musical performances throughout the celebration, bringing the spirit of the festivities directly to those unable to attend community events.

SUNDAY JULY 5 / BY LOCATION

Arena - MainStage	
1 PM - 3 PM	Jigging Competition Show off your skills or cheer on your favourite Jigger! Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place!
3 PM - 5 PM	Youth Talent Show (Under 18) Have a secret talent? Show it off at our Youth Talent Show! Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place!
5 PM - 7 PM	\$50,000 Bingo Get your dabbers ready for one of the biggest nights in Bingo!
7 PM - 11 PM	Adult Talent Show (18+) Have a secret talent? Show it off at our Youth Talent Show! Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place!
Askiy Healing Lodge	
9 AM - 12 PM	Sweat Lodge Building
ALL DAY	Massage Therapy
10 AM - 12 PM	Energy Healing
11 AM - 2 PM	Speakers
2 PM	Matohtisâniwiwin Iskwewak (Women's Sweatlodge Ceremony)\
Boat Launch	
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Voyageur Games Registration - Adults (17+), Youth (16 and Under), Children (Under 10) Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place!
10 AM	Voyageur Games Begin Races kick off for all age categories! Battle it out in running, biking, paddling, archery and more!
10 AM - 6 PM	Boat Tours Take a guided boat tour through important historical and cultural sites, including family homes and locations connected to the land, water, and stories that shaped the region.
11 AM - 3 PM	Fish Derby Join the fun, test your luck, and win prizes in a community-wide fishing derby!
12 PM - 8 PM	Kayaking with Local Adventure Co. Get out on the water and learn a new skill with Local Adventure Co!
11 PM	Drone Show A dazzling drone show will light up the sky, creating a stunning aerial celebration to mark this historic milestone.
Curling Rink	
9 AM - 5 PM	Sakitawak Market Shop local arts, crafts, handmade goods, and traditional foods all day long.
Elders Lodge	
All Day	Historian and Genealogist Stop in to speak with our local historian and genealogist to discover more about the history of families from Île-à-la-Crosse.
11 AM - RUN OUT	Lunch Served - Soup & Bannock
11 AM - 3 PM	Elders Visits Drop in throughout the day for visits, storytelling, live music, and lessons with the Elders. A light lunch will be served in the lodge for Elders.

Friendship Centre & Cultural Village	
10 AM - 12 PM	Various Activities Skiff Making, Moose Hide Tanning, Diamond Willow, Dry Meat Making, Reconstructible Cabins
12 PM	Lunch Served
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Various Activities Beaver Tails, Cooking Duck, Bannock Making, Traditional Tea, Beading, Fish Scale Art, Birch Bark Art, Sweat Lodge Ceremony
6:30 PM - 8 PM	Outdoor Bonfire with Tea, Coffee, Snacks, and Storytelling
Group Home	
1 PM - 3 PM	Foam Party
All Day	MN-S Children's Village Drop in throughout the day for educational activities and children's games!
Grotto - The Beach	
9 AM	Yoga Join experienced yogi and local resident Jordyn Burnouf for yoga on the beach.
10 AM - 11 AM	Memorial Service for Father Louis Moraud
Rose Daigneault Pavilion	
All Day	Horse and Wagon Rides Join former NHL player Rich Pilon for horse and wagon rides throughout the festival grounds.
9 AM	Slo Pitch and Beach Volleyball Tournaments
1 PM - 7 PM	Beer Gardens and Live Music Featuring DJ EXL, Kimberly & Co., and Dakota Favel.
Rossignol Elementary School	
10 AM - 5 PM	Roots of Sakitawak (Historical Display) Come explore the displays, learn about local families, reconnect with old friends and discover the people and stories that helped shape our community.
Sakitawak Events Centre	
All Day	TBA
Spiritual Tent	
1 PM	Testimonials and Singing Join community members for uplifting testimonials, music, and fellowship as stories of faith, hope, and resilience are shared through song and personal experience.
St. Joseph's Long Term Care	
4 PM - 5 PM	Live Music Residents of the Long-Term Care Wing will enjoy special live musical performances throughout the celebration, bringing the spirit of the festivities directly to those unable to attend community events.

MONDAY JULY 6 / BY LOCATION

	Arena - MainStage
10 AM	The Experience Magic Show - All ages!
11 AM - 12 PM	Live Music from Joseph Natayahow & Cheryl L’hirondell
1PM - 2PM	The Unknown Magic Show - For ages 18+
2:30 PM - 4 PM	Poetry Corner
4:30 PM - 6 PM	Rez Boys
7 PM - 11 PM	Live Music live performances from Donny Parenteau, Jason Lepine, and C Weed!
	Askiy Healing Lodge
9 AM - 12 PM	Energy Healing
9 AM - 2 PM	Foot / Hand & Champissage Head Massages
ALL DAY	Massage Therapy
11 AM - 2 PM	Speakers
2 PM	Matohtisâniwiwin Iskwewak (Women’s Sweatlodge Ceremony)
	Boat Launch
10 AM - 4 PM	Boat Tours Take a guided boat tour through important historical and cultural sites, including family homes and locations connected to the land, water, and stories that shaped the region.
11 PM	Drone Show A dazzling drone show will light up the sky, creating a stunning aerial celebration to mark this historic milestone.
	Curling Rink
9 AM - 5 PM	Sakitawak Market Shop local arts, crafts, handmade goods, and traditional foods all day long.
	Elders Lodge
All Day	Historian and Genealogist Stop in to speak with our local historian and genealogist to discover more about the history of families from Île-à-la-Crosse.
11 AM - RUN OUT	Lunch Served - Soup & Bannock
11 AM - 3 PM	Elders Visits Drop in throughout the day for visits, storytelling, live music, and lessons with the Elders. A light lunch will be served in the lodge for Elders.
	Friendship Centre & Cultural Village
10 AM - 12 PM	Various Activities Skiff Making, Moose Hide Tanning, Diamond Willow, Dry Meat Making, Birch Sap Boil, Reconstructible Cabins, Dry Fish, Paddle Making
12 PM	Lunch Served
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Various Activities Le Bay Making, Cooking Moose Meat, Leather Belt Making, Leather Mitts, Traditional Medicine Making
6:30 PM - 8 PM	Outdoor Bonfire with Tea, Coffee, Snacks, and Storytelling

	Group Home
1 PM - 4 PM	Bouncy Castles For one day only, children can enjoy a variety of bouncy castles and inflatable activities in a safe and exciting environment. Summer Safety Event from SGI and Victim Services Safety tips for all ages. Meet public safety and community resources. Free Snow Cones and Popcorn provided. MN-S Children’s Village Drop in throughout the day for educational activities and children’s games! Saskatchewan Archaeological Society ArcheoCaravan - Handle authentic and replica archaeological material. Hunt bison with an atlatl dart. Hands on activities including pottery puzzles, colouring sheets, and more!
All Day	
	Grotto - The Beach
9 AM	Yoga Join experienced yogi and local resident Jordyn Burnouf for yoga on the beach.
	Rose Daigneault Pavilion
All Day	Horse and Wagon Rides Join former NHL player Rich Pilon for horse and wagon rides throughout the festival grounds. Slo Pitch, Beach Volleyball, and Bolo Tournaments Let the games begin. Beer Gardens and Live Music Enjoy the musical stylings of DJ EXL, Happy Hour, and Dakota Favel.
9 AM	
1 PM - 7 PM	
	Rossignol Elementary School
10 AM - 5 PM	Roots of Sakitawak (Historical Display) Come explore the displays, learn about local families, reconnect with old friends and discover the people and stories that helped shape our community.
	Sakitawak Events Centre
All Day	TBA
	St. Joseph’s Long Term Care
4 PM - 5 PM	Live Music Residents of the Long-Term Care Wing will enjoy special live musical performances throughout the celebration, bringing the spirit of the festivities directly to those unable to attend community events.

TUESDAY JULY 7 / BY LOCATION

	Arena - MainStage
1 PM - 2 PM	The Experience Magic Show Family friendly magic show for all ages!
2:30 PM - 4 PM	Pow Wow Demonstration Enjoy a cultural demonstration of traditional Pow Wow dancing!
4:30 PM - 5:10 PM	Fiddle Music with Adam Daigneault
5:20 PM - 6 PM	Fiddle Music with Jeremy and Joseph
8 PM - 11 PM	Main Act
	Askiy Healing Lodge
9 AM - 12 PM	Energy Healing
10 AM - 12 PM	Kaskitêwâstim Nâtawihowin (Black Horse Healing)
10 AM - 4 PM	Foot / Hand & Champissage Head Massages
ALL DAY	Massage Therapy
1 PM - 4 PM	Private Event
	Boat Launch
1 PM - 4 PM	Boat Tours Closed for a Private Event
11 PM	Drone Show & Fireworks Join us for a dazzling drone show and stunning firework display to mark the end of our historic celebration!
	Curling Rink
9 AM - 5 PM	Sakitawak Market Shop local arts, crafts, handmade goods, and traditional foods all day long.
	Elders Lodge
All Day	Historian and Genealogist Stop in to speak with our local historian and genealogist to discover more about the history of families from Île-à-la-Crosse.
11 AM - RUN OUT	Lunch Served - Soup & Bannock
11 AM - 3 PM	Elders Visits Drop in throughout the day for visits, storytelling, live music, and lessons with the Elders. A light lunch will be served in the lodge for Elders.
	Friendship Centre & Cultural Village
10 AM - 12 PM	Various Activities Skiff Making, Moose Hide Tanning, Diamond Willow, Reconstructible Cabins,
12 PM	Lunch Served
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Various Activities Le Bay, Fish Soup, Porcupine Quill Earrings, Bannock Making, Organic Natural Sprays and Lip Balm, Beading
6:30 PM - 8 PM	Outdoor Bonfire with Tea, Coffee, Snacks, and Storytelling

	Group Home
All Day	MN-S Children's Village Drop in throughout the day for educational activities and children's games! Saskatchewan Archaeological Society ArcheoCaravan - Handle authentic and replica archaeological material. Hunt bison with an atlatl dart. Hands on activities including pottery puzzles, colouring sheets, and more!
	Grotto / The Beach
9 AM	Yoga Join experienced yogi and local resident Jordyn Burnouf for yoga on the beach.
1 PM - 4 PM	Beach Party Join us for some summer time fun!
	Rose Daigneault Pavilion
All Day	Horse and Wagon Rides Join former NHL player Rich Pilon for horse and wagon rides throughout the festival grounds.
ALL DAY	Activities Marble Tournament, Grease Pole, Rubber Ball Tournament Youth Tournaments Continue (Under 18) Beach Volleyball, Slo Pitch, 3 on 3 Basketball
1 PM - 7 PM	Live Music Enjoy the musical stylings of Dakota Favel, Blackrain, Sub Youth Band, and Lea Mck Band!
	Rossignol Elementary School
10 AM - 5 PM	Roots of Sakitawak (Historical Display) Come explore the displays, learn about local families, reconnect with old friends and discover the people and stories that helped shape our community.
	Sakitawak Events Centre
All Day	TBA
	St. Joseph's Long Term Care
4 PM - 5 PM	Live Music Residents of the Long-Term Care Wing will enjoy special live musical performances throughout the celebration, bringing the spirit of the festivities directly to those unable to attend community events.



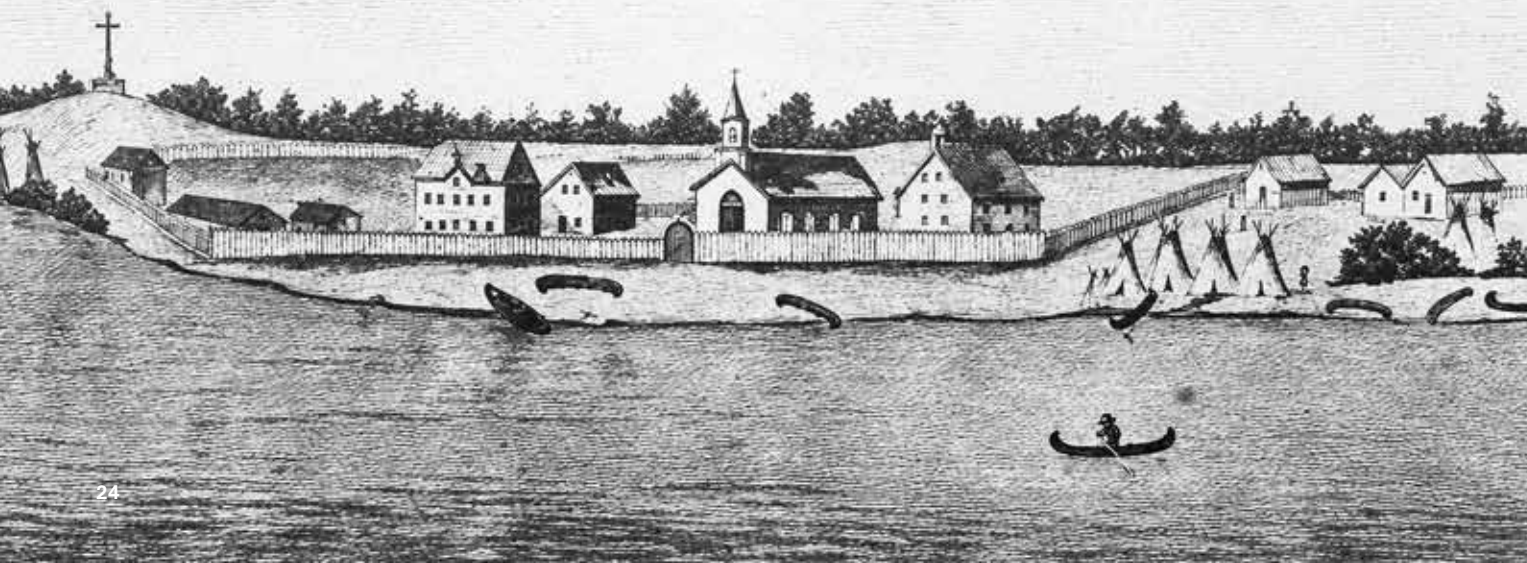
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WEDNESDAY JULY 8 / CLOSING DAY

11 AM

Community BBQ / Boat Launch

Gather together for a final feast - a chance to say thank you, reconnect, and close the celebration with a full heart and full plates!



As we close this celebration, we give thanks to everyone who helped make Ile-à-la-Crosse 250 possible: our Elders, Knowledge Keepers, leaders, volunteers, performers, families, visitors, and community members.

This gathering has been more than a look back at 250 years of history. It has been a reminder of who we are, where we come from, and what we carry forward together. May the stories, songs, laughter, food, memories, and connections shared here continue to live on long after the celebration ends. Thank you for being part of this homecoming.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

This historic event could not be possible without our amazing sponsors and partners. Thank you for supporting your community!

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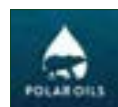
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