

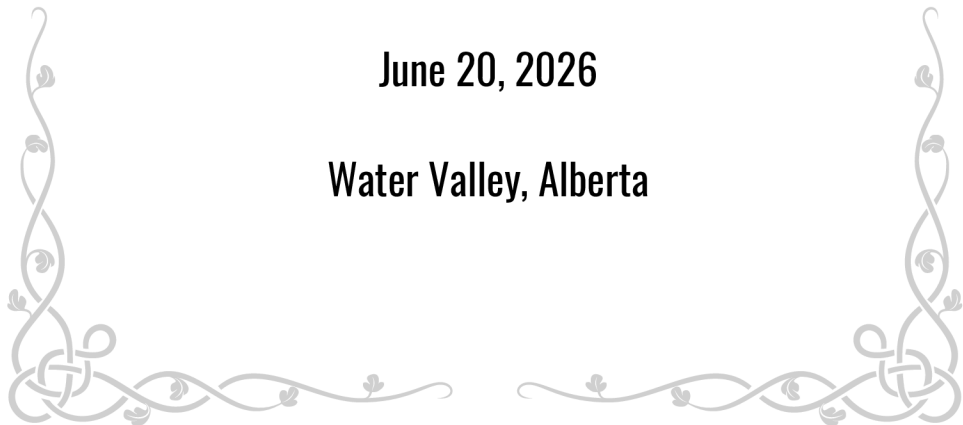


# 2026 PROGRAM



**June 20, 2026**

**Water Valley, Alberta**





**OPEN FOR BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER!**

**WHISKEY BARREL OUTPOST**

|              |                                           |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 10:00- 10:45 | Derek Lofthouse                           |
| 11:00-11:45  | Chartier & Checora                        |
| 12:00-12:45  | Drew Martin                               |
| 1:00-1:45    | "Telling Oral Stories with Zing and Zest" |
| 2:00-3:00    | Get Reel                                  |
| 3:15-4:00    | Diane Stefanchuk                          |
| 4:15-5:00    | Pretty Good Cellos                        |
| 5:15-6:00    | Blue Rambler                              |



## LOWER SCHOOLHOUSE

|              |                                      |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 10:00- 10:45 | Yarns & Strings                      |
| 11:00-11:45  | Called by the Sea                    |
| 12:00-12:45  | Singing Workshop with Alison Demeter |
| 1:00-1:45    | Alison Demeter                       |
| 2:00-3:00    | Top Noters and Eliana Yates          |
| 3:15-4:00    | Chartier & Checora                   |
| 4:15-5:00    | Denis McMaster                       |
| 5:15-6:00    | Kerri Coombs                         |
| 6:15-7:00    | Will Quan                            |

## UPPER SCHOOLHOUSE

|              |                                 |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 10:00- 10:45 | ICS Choir                       |
| 11:00-11:45  | The Pinecone Shenanigans        |
| 12:00-12:45  | Toni Vere                       |
| 1:00-1:45    | Gan Ainm                        |
| 2:00-3:00    | Men Folk Singing                |
| 3:15-4:00    | The Carolyn Harley Trio         |
| 4:15-5:00    | Get Reel                        |
| 5:15-6:00    | Barbara Rose and Eric MacDonald |
| 6:15-7:00    | Calgary Burns Club Singers      |

## Water Valley Community Association (WVCA) Tent

|              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 10:00- 10:45 | Tracie Skeet-Brook             |
| 11:00-11:45  | The Moondogs                   |
| 12:00-12:45  | ICS Choir                      |
| 1:00-1:45    | Highwood Ukulele Strummers     |
| 2:00-3:00    | Miss Emma's dancers & workshop |
| 3:15-4:00    | Barry Luft                     |
| 4:15-5:00    | Sypher's Cove                  |
| 5:15-6:00    | Jeff Stockton                  |
| 6:15-7:00    | Nicole Lacey                   |

*Water Valley Forest Nursery Inc.*



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### Otte Tent

|              |                                             |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 10:00- 10:45 | Adam Corkett                                |
| 11:00-11:45  | Whoopsie Daisies                            |
| 12:00-12:45  | Balzac Kitchen Party String Band            |
| 1:00-1:45    | Duzzy                                       |
| 2:00-3:00    | Tracie Skeet-Brook performance and workshop |
| 3:15-4:00    | Doug Briggs and the Red Shoe Two            |
| 4:15-5:00    | Luft & the Goodchildren                     |
| 5:15-6:00    | Alvin Moore                                 |
| 6:15-7:00    | Pretty Good Cellos                          |



**OPEN ALL DAY FOR BURGERS, DRINKS & MORE!**

| Water Valley Saloon Patio |                                         |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 10:00- 10:45              | The Mosaics                             |
| 11:00-11:45               | Tim Gareau                              |
| 12:00-12:45               | Eric Coyle                              |
| 1:00-1:45                 | The Scottish Tradition School Of Piping |
| 2:00-3:00                 | Crossing MacKenzie                      |
| 3:15-4:00                 | The Haymakers                           |
| 4:15-5:00                 | Adam Corkett                            |
| 5:15-6:00                 | The Carolyn Harley Trio                 |

## SETTLE-IN

|              |                                            |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 10:00- 10:45 | Balzac Kitchen Party String Band           |
| 11:00-11:45  | Trailed By 20 Hounds                       |
| 12:00-12:45  | Crossing MacKenzie                         |
| 1:00-1:45    | Prairie Lily                               |
| 2:00-2:45    | Of Ghosts and Glory                        |
| 3:00-3:45    | The Waltzing Matildas                      |
| 4:00-4:45    | The Great Grey                             |
| 5:00-5:45    | The Bow Valley Fiddlers                    |
| 6:00-6:45    | John Squared                               |
| 7:00-8:00    | Open Mic/Jam with Kerri Coombs (Beer Tent) |

## COMMUNITY HALL

|              |                                                    |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00- 11:00 | The Wayfarers                                      |
| 11:20-12:20  | Christie J Simmons                                 |
| 12:40-1:40   | The Sweet Colleens                                 |
| 2:00-3:00    | Songwriter's Circle with Tim, Toni, Christie, Will |
| 3:20-4:20    | The New Triangle                                   |
| 4:40-5:40    | Doug Briggs and the Red Shoe Two                   |
| 6:00-6:30    | The Haymakers                                      |
| 6:30-7:00    | Sypher's Cove                                      |

## Adam Corkett

Calgary-based songwriter Adam Corkett blends Americana and Folk with the heart of a nomadic Canadian upbringing. A two-time WCMA-nominated artist and co-founder of Two Late To The Party, Adam is returning to his solo roots with a new album of honest storytelling and timeless folk clarity, set for release in 2026.



## Alison Demeter

Singer, songwriter, storyteller. Western, Celtic, folk. Calgary based performer Alison Demeter is grateful for the opportunity to once again connect with and celebrate her Scottish, English and Irish ancestry in story and song. [www.reverbnation.com/alisondemeter](http://www.reverbnation.com/alisondemeter)



## Alvin Moore

Alvin Moore is an instrumental fingerstyle acoustic guitarist who enjoys playing a wide range of genres including celtic, bluegrass, latin, jazz, folk, and blues. He has played at folk clubs, fundraisers, corporate events, and weddings especially in the central alberta area

## Balzac Kitchen Party String Band

We play for the joy of it weekly and entertain at venues such as the Alberta RV'ers Spring Meeting, Airdrie Volunteers Senior's Luncheon and seniors residences.

## Barbara Rose and Eric MacDonald

Barbara and Eric play music rooted in the Irish, Scottish and Canadian folk traditions. Their heartfelt music spans ancient melodies and modern compositions, evoking joy and wistfulness in equal measure.

## Barry Luft

Barry Luft's singing has woven rich, colourful threads into the fabric of folk-style music in Alberta for more than sixty years. Barry presents Canadian, British and American songs and ballads with instrumental accompaniment or a cappella arrangements. He engages his audiences in these musical performances and guarantees to have a) hearts uplifted, b) minds calmed, and c) funny bones tickled!



## Blue Rambler

George Campbell, James Blench and Sheri Brake will be playing their 'Trouble Set' featuring a blend of East Coast, Down South, Bluesy and Celtic songs in which someone is managing trouble. All sorts of troubles! Expect a bit of foot tapping, encouragement to sing along, love under strain, maybe a hanging.



## Calgary Burns Club Singers

The Calgary Burns Club singers started in 1994 to sing the songs of Robert Burns and other traditional songs of Scotland. We also sing a variety of other songs to appeal to a wider audience. We sing at seniors' residences, health care facilities and other functions and venues in and around Calgary.

## Called by the Sea

Called by the Sea weaves together the raw heart of folk music with the timeless pull of Celtic tradition. The duo - Michael Pollock (mandolin, concertina, banjo, harmonica, vocals) and Doug Baker (guitars, vocals) present songs that feel both wind-worn and deeply human. On stage, Michael and Doug share a natural chemistry born of years playing together. They invite listeners to be carried away by songs that honour the past while reaching for something timeless.



## Chartier and Checora

We are Calgary based songwriters, a unique vocal collaboration with Bob on guitar and Cathy on cello. Bob and Cathy's songs appeal to all ages, covering various subjects (such as pianos and cats, rivers and trains, diners and hunger, walking and wanting), and almost always accompanied by a good story. Look for our first home made EP, called the Basement Tapes, a field recording made by our friend Jeff Bray in Bob's pottery studio.



## Christie J Simmons

Calgary, Alberta's Christie J Simmons crafts elegant, acoustic songs that balance clarity with poetic edge. Her background in classical flute, early music, and highland bagpipes informs a sound that is grounded yet unexpected. Her albums Winnie's Song and Learn You by Heart reveal her gift for quiet intensity and lyrical grace.

## Crossing MacKenzie

Crossing MacKenzie is Bonnie Gregory (fiddle and vocals) Steve Bell (piano, accordion and vocals) and Andreas Illig (guitar) who have come a long way from the session scene on Edmonton's Whyte Avenue, through several bands (including Celtara and Scona Brae), recordings and tours. Their love for acoustic folk and trad music from Celtic to Scandinavian to Appalachian and Canadiana can be heard in their intricate arrangements of songs and tunes, new and old, originals and traditional.

Since their 2024 debut at the Water Valley Celtic Festival, Crossing MacKenzie continues to play regularly around Alberta - Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Dinosaur Provincial Park, WaterValley, Lac La Biche and more.



## Diane Stefanchuk

Rooted in Canadian folk music, Diane Stefanchuk is a contemporary singer-songwriter who hails from Bearberry, Alberta. Her sound blends acoustic storytelling with bright guitar melodies. Her songs come from the heart, reflecting her connection to the nearby mountains and rivers. Since her debut CD Open Window, Diane has continued writing with a focus on songs for healing. Originally from Calgary, Diane was a guitar player and vocalist with the Calgary band BOW, (Band of Women), and has performed locally around Calgary and Sundre.



## **Denis McMaster**

Denis McMaster played at many of the early Water Valley festivals with the group Kilkenny. After a break of a few years (and since the covid epidemic) he has been back at the festival as a solo performer with a selection of mostly celtic tunes on keyboard. This year will again feature keyboard music, with perhaps a few surprises included (if he keeps practicing).

## **Derek Lofthouse**

Northumbrian small pipes and hurdy-gurdy. Hurdygurdy focusing on the French traditional dance repertoire with a mix of Scottishness, bourrees and waltzes. Pipe tune will be mainly from older sources with a couple of new tunes thrown in.

## **Doug Briggs and the Red Shoe Two**

Doug, Greg, and Mitch, a piratey band they be,  
Sailing musical seas with a bold decree,  
Filling the salty air with harmony,  
Landing in Water Valley for a spree!

## **Drew Martin**

Drew Martin grew up in Inverness county Cape Breton alongside many famous fiddlers and celtic music. Moving to Alberta to pursue a career in Education, he spent his first three years of teaching in rural Alberta which inspired his songwriting to this day.

## **Duzzy**

Been writing my own stuff for quite awhile, mostly because I can't really sing any proper songs decently. Spent a lot of time without much success, but that doesn't stop me from doing it anyway. Ive learned you gotta find something you love and stop making excuses for it. Mean people suck.

## **Eric Coyle**

I have been performing solo at Water Valley since it started, Senior /care homes Burns Suppers since the eighties

## **Gan Ainm**

Gan Ainm play traditional music from the British Isles, Western Europe, Quebec and the Maritimes on harp, flutes , fiddle, whistle, accordion, pipes, hurdy-gurdy, guitars and mandolin.

## **Get Reel**

Our jolly ship's crew will explore a lively set of songs and fiddle tunes from the East Coast, Irish, Scottish, Folk, and other Celtic traditions. Blending a strong mix of harmonies into their songs, Get Reel is Doug Wagner (vocals, whistles, bodhran, guitar, and fiddle), Greg Black (vocals, guitar, electric bass, and octave mandolin) and Tony Hogan (vocals and percussion). When the fog is just right, you can almost smell the ocean, see the shipwrecks, hear the crashing waves with "a tiny trace of fiddling in the distance far behind him."

## Highwood Ukulele Strummers

The Highwood Ukulele Strummers are a wonderful group of (mostly seniors) from Calgary who love to play the ukulele & they have a fun time doing it! You will know most of the songs & the audience is encouraged to sing along!

## Irish Cultural Society (ICS) Choir

A wonderful group of men and women who enjoy sharing their love of singing and their Irishness around Calgary and of course Water Valley Celtic Festival for over 30 years. We love singing to live audiences and perform at multiple venues in and around Calgary, throughout the year as well as the ICS Christmas Concert and on St. Patrick's Day events.



## Jeff Stockton

Jeff Stockton is a Celtic harpist, singer & storyteller. An award winning recording artist, he has released 6 albums of his work with song and story. Jeff is also an author and illustrator, and has released 4 illustrated books. Jeff's website can be found at <http://www.jeffstockton.ca/>

## John Squared

Performing together for about three years. Both of us are singer-songwriters. We are a dynamic duo who enjoy engaging with the audience.



## Kerri Coombs

Kerri Coombs is a songwriter well versed in the traditional tunes and songs of Ireland. With a broad repertoire of unusual oldies interspersed with original songs rooted in the Celtic tradition of honouring shared history through music, her performances invite the audience to reflect on who we are and where we've been. It's a grounded, unhurried experience that feels less like a formal concert and more like a quiet conversation between the past and the present.

## Luft & the Goodchildren

This trio of Barry Luft, Helen Goodchild, and Steve Goodchild have played together formally and informally for about 3 years. They certainly know how to let the good times roll.

## Men Folk Singing

A group that raises the roof with our audience!

## Miss Emma's Dance Studio

Local dance studio from WaterValley. Character Ballet and more

## Nicole Lacey

Nicole Lacey is a local singer-songwriter sharing heartfelt originals with a warm, serenading acoustic style.



## Of Ghosts and Glory

Of Ghosts and Glory started in 2017 as a storytelling project between Alessandra Warkentin and Adam Corkett before growing into the Calgary-based quartet they are today. Their sound is deeply tied to the rugged and honest landscape of the Canadian West. While their work on albums like *The Great Unraveling* has earned some Western Canadian Music Award nods and radio play, the band is still most at home in intimate venues where their powerful vocals and resilient lyrics can really connect.

## Prairie Lily

Prairie Lily is a sister folk duo from Cremona, Alberta. Victoria and Kate Pereversoff have shared the stage for years as members of the local group Lilybelle. Together they weave piano ballads, sweet harmonies, and fiddle tunes into a warm and heartfelt sound.



## Pretty Good Cellos

The Pretty Good Cello's is composed of Pat Connick and Renu Mathew who are both multidisciplinary musicians and participate in music in a wide variety of ways but collaborate together culminating in Cello Duets. They have been playing together for 5 years. They perform in both casual and formal environments and sometimes include other musicians and instruments. The Pretty Good Cello's perform a wide variety of repertoire but focus on music that can reach a wide audience with familiar traditional melodies and sometimes folk songs. This is their first time participating in the Water Valley Celtic Festival.



## Singing Workshop with Alison Demeter

For the past 26 years, Alison Demeter has been passionate about supporting and empowering people to sing... regardless of previous experience, skills or abilities! This 45-minute workshop offers a quick vocal warmup, an opportunity to learn/sing a portion of 2-3 songs and an optional invitation to perform those songs with Alison in her set immediately following the workshop. To learn more about her offerings, please visit [www.soul-story.ca/self-discovery-through-singing](http://www.soul-story.ca/self-discovery-through-singing).

## Songwriter's Circle with Tim, Toni, Christie, Will

Join Tim Gareau, Toni Vere, Christie J. Simmons and Will Quan for an hour of original music.

## Syphers Cove and The Haymakers

The Haymakers have been together since about 2004 and have played Watervalley for many years. Syphers cove has been together for about 12 years and played Watervalley all of that. It is a fun relaxed group that enjoys singing together and enjoying celtic music

## "Telling Oral Stories with Zing and Zest"

Storytelling is in our DNA! This workshop will offer tips and tricks for developing a solid oral story and polishing your delivery, whether you're telling at the kitchen table or at a Fringe Fest.

## The Bow Valley Fiddlers

The Bow Valley Fiddlers are an impressive group of young violinists, learning to perform the art of fiddling in an ensemble, while making lifelong friendships along the way! Understudies to The Calgary Fiddlers, these young musicians, aged 7 to 16, are deeply rooted in our seniors communities. Through their music, the Bow Valleys weave a tapestry of nostalgia where audiences can relive the music of their youth, while also learning a wide variety of genres with an emphasis on Canadian Music.



## The Carolyn Harley Trio

I am a singer/songwriter/story teller/recording artist. Together with with Steve Goodchild on guitar, mando and banjo and Laurie Anne Fuhr on upright bass plus harmony we present a variety of styles and original songs. High energy and fun!



## The Great Grey

The Great Grey was formed in Cochrane in 2019 by Calvin, with his sister, his wife and a friend. He had a back log of acoustic music he'd written over the years and the four them brought the songs to life with guitar, vocals, fiddle, and keys. After the exit of the keyboard player last year, they've migrated towards a more acoustic Celtic folk sound.



## The Moondogs

This trio is committed to honest, acoustic music with influences from the Jayhawks, Chris Stapleton, The Rankin Family, and Dr. Hook. Members include, Audrey Gross, Bob Etcheverry and Doug Lubeck. Guitars, mandolin and bass come together to create their own unique, warm and energetic sound



## The Mosaics

Formerly the Celtic Aires, this small community of adults enjoy weaving! In fact, we have spent our 2025-26 season weaving choir with singing lessons and popular/Celtic songs with stories we've created. We are very excited to return to the Festival to share what we have come up with! To learn more about us, please visit the 'Mosaics' page at [www.soul-story.ca](http://www.soul-story.ca)



## The New Triangle

This group of musicians have been playing music together for over 10 years in Calgary under various names. Covering a wide variety of musical genres and gracing the stages of the Ship and Anchor and the Bowness Irish cultural centre. We come from all over Canada and showcase our musical histories through our sets.

## The Pinecone Shenanigans

In 2025, The Pinecone Shenanigans made their festival debut to a full house in the Water Valley upper school house. This trio of young siblings is excited to be back to share their love of music and performance. They bring to the stage a spark of youth, a twinkle of mischief, a glimmer of hope and of course a story or two good for a rumble of laughter.



## The Sweet Colleens

This trio journey through bluegrass, Celtic, maritime and old-time music and find the stories, melodies and harmonies with heart. Most importantly, the sweet colleens share the joy of making and sharing music. Susan Green (guitar/mandolin/fiddle), Susan Jones (bass/guitar) and Colleen Lecocq (banjo/guitar) form the trio.



## The Waltzing Matildas

We perform a mix of upbeat swing and folks from the 30's, 40's and 50s with lots of silly humor and strong harmonies.

## The Wayfarers

From the Pacific shores to Nova Scotia, this dynamic group of friends first came together at Calgary house parties, and their passion for Celtic, Folk, and East Coast music quickly led to the creation of a band. They made their first debut at Water Valley in 2017.

## Tim Gareau

A storyteller at heart, Calgary hometown lad singer/songwriter Tim Gareau crafts hopeful lyrics from real-life experiences and brings them to life with spirited guitar, and harmonica accompaniment. His songs are thought provoking, sometimes wacky; taking his audience on a journey of discovery.

## Toni Vere

Toni Vere is a Canadian singer-songwriter whose music carries the nuts and bolts of lived experience thanks to her hard-won resilience. Since reemerging on the scene in 2024 she's embarked on a new studio album project due out Sept 2026 along with a full production music video. Toni was recently awarded a spot in The National Music Centre / Write-On Songs "Acoustic Guitar Project January 2026 as well as a spot in the emerging artist program with The Rocky Mountain Listening Room in April 2026.



## Top Noters

Top Noters feature Harmonica, Piano, Cello and rhythm section - friends that love to share the love of music together

## Top Noters Juniors

Eliana Yates is now 9 years old and played Violin since she was 6 years old. She enjoys playing Christian and Folk Music. Her sister Vivianne enjoys playing piano.

## Tracie Skeet-Brook

Tracie Skeet-Brook blends Celtic, classical and folk music into a genre-defying sound, with influences of Loreena McKennitt and Joni Mitchell. She is a passionate, multifaceted artist who has performed throughout Canada, USA and Austria. She creates high standard professional vocal and instrumental music performances, playing numerous instruments including the lap harp, Merlin, penny whistles, piano, drums, glockenspiel, autoharp, and more. With her Irish and English heritage, Tracie brings to life the magic of traditional Celtic music through song while allowing her beautiful voice to soar.



## Tracie Skeet-Brook performance and workshop

Tracie Skeet-Brook will be discussing and demonstrating the Merlin instrument. What is it? Who designed it? The origin and inspiration for this unique and versatile instrument. Tracie will also give a brief performance with singing, harp, whistle and... the Merlin!

## Trailed by 20 Hounds

Possibly the leading edge sound in celtic today, Trailed by 20 Hounds pushes the limits with a creative, eclectic approach to music. Featuring some originals, some reinterpreted classics and always a good vibe, don't miss these guys. Bill Innes on stand-up bass, Karl Lingwood on pennywhistle and sax, and brothers Ian and Tim Babey on banjo and mandolin. Come and enjoy!

## Whoopsie Daisies

We are a vibrant all-female Celtic and Folk band hailing from the picturesque Sundre area. We have a unique blend of modern songs with traditional arrangements, as well as traditional songs with modern arrangements. We create a musical experience that is both timeless and contemporary. We also enjoy a Shanty or two!



## Will Quan

Will Quan is a Calgary singer songwriter whose emotively infused sound is influenced by traditional and contemporary folk music. His music is distinctive with its layering of vocal melodies on a bedrock of guitar picking and strumming, while his lyrics draw upon our common human experience of fear, love, loss, hardship and hope. His pensive songs and silky voice will transport you and reverberate in your memory long after his live performance. Music for the soul. Party, Adam is returning to his solo roots with a new album of honest storytelling and timeless folk clarity, set for release in 2026.



## Yarns & Strings

Doreen Vanderstoop (she/her) is a Calgary-based storyteller, musician and author. She performs oral stories of all genres at events of all kinds, intermingling music in her performances. Her debut novel, Watershed, was published by Freehand Books in 2020 and won the Book Publishers Association of Alberta Book of the Year Award in 2021.



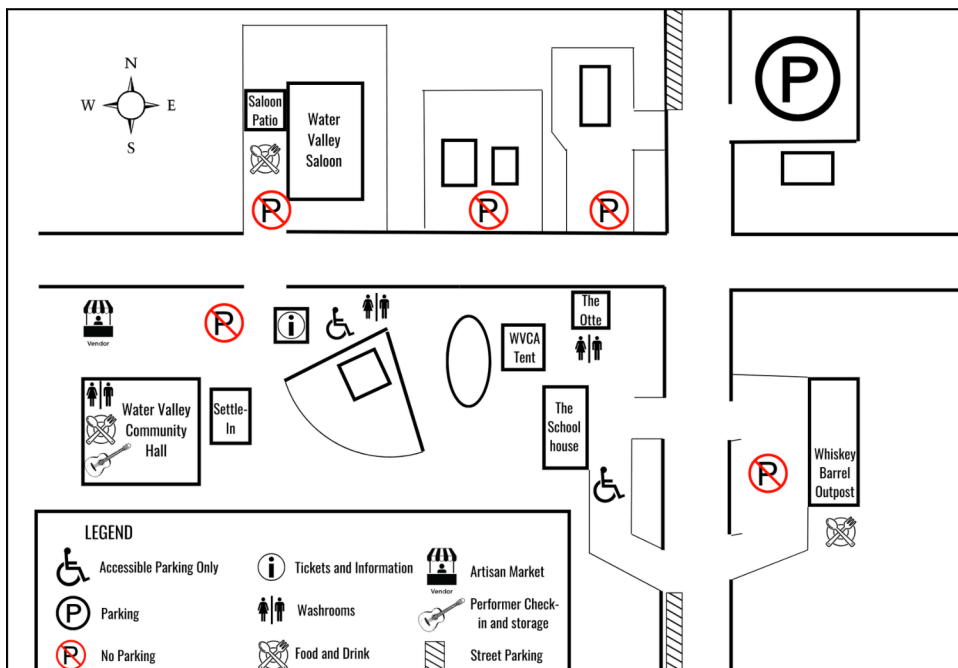


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**Welcome to the Water Valley Celtic Festival! This festival is a place for musicians of all ages and skills to come together with their shared love of Celtic music. This day of music, stories, laughter and community would not be possible without the musicians, volunteers, sound technicians, the people and businesses of Water Valley and the audience. So THANK YOU for your support of live and authentic music !**

 /Water Valley Celtic Festival (Facebook)

 @wv\_celtic(Instagram)

<https://www.watervalley.ca/celtic-festival>