

# Fiddler On the Loose tour in North Eastman

The Manitoba Chamber Orchestra (MCO) spring tour of their acclaimed ensemble, Fiddlers on the Loose, made a couple of cultural pit stops in North Eastman recently.

Kicking off five days of shows on Music Monday (May 6), the sextet closed out their tour at both École Powerview and École Beausejour Early Years Schools on May 10.

Fiddlers on the Loose is known for its dynamic performances that fuse classical mastery with the spirited energy of folk music. This tour embodies the MCO's commitment to outreach and education, offering an engaging musical experience that resonates with audiences of all ages. The tour not only showcases the ensemble's versatile repertoire, but also highlights their dedication to community engagement.

"We (were) excited to have Fiddlers on the Loose welcomed into these vibrant communities," said MCO

Executive Director Sean McManus. "This tour is a fantastic opportunity to connect with students, families, and audiences across Manitoba, sharing the joy of live music and fostering a love for diverse musical traditions."

Collaboration with local educators from school divisions like Sunrise School Division is a cornerstone of the tour, ensuring that the concerts are integrated with educational outreach activities designed to inspire young musicians and new audiences. These interactions emphasize the importance of music education and provide a platform for students to explore music under the guidance of accomplished musicians.

Dovetailing with Music Month in Manitoba, the MCO Spring Tour is a celebration of music's power to unite communities, featuring performances that are as entertaining as they are inspiring.



Photo by Mark T. Buss

Violinists Maya De Forest (left) and Boyd Mackenzie performed for students at École Powerview and École Beausejour Early Years Schools.

# Vigilance required during active tick season

The province is urging Manitobans to watch out for ticks on their pets and themselves in what is an early and active tick season due to the unseasonably warm weather.

Milder winters and shifting weather patterns caused by climate change means ticks are expanding their geographical range to more regions of the province, although southern Manitoba remains the

highest risk area.

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care is reminding people to be vigilant about ticks, take steps to prevent bites and know when to seek treatment.

Blacklegged ticks, often called deer ticks, are a risk to human health because they can transmit diseases like Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Powassan virus disease. These

diseases can all be serious, particularly in older adults, young children or people with compromised immune systems or underlying medical conditions.

Public health officials recommend visiting a health care provider within 72 hours of removing a tick to receive preventative treatment for Lyme disease if the bite was from a blacklegged tick or if the tick was engorged with blood.

Blacklegged ticks may be found anytime snow is not on the ground, with peak

activity in spring and fall.

Due to the health risk posed by blacklegged ticks, it is important to be able to distinguish between them and the more common wood tick. While wood ticks are a nuisance, in Manitoba these species do not transmit diseases. Blacklegged ticks have a red-orange body, black legs and a black spot on their back, and are smaller than wood ticks. Adult females are about the size of a sesame seed. When attached and feeding, blacklegged ticks become

larger and change colour to grey and brown. Wood ticks are larger, brownish in colour, with white markings on their back.

Anyone who finds a tick on animals, humans or in various habitats can submit a picture to have it identified by experts, to confirm if the tick belongs to a species capable of transmitting diseases.

Individuals can reduce their risk of tick bites and disease exposure by applying an appropriate tick repellent on exposed skin

and clothing, following label directions, wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts and tucking in clothing to create a barrier;

Parents are urged to inspect themselves, their children and pets after spending time outdoors. If a tick is found, remove it as soon as possible from people and pets, using tweezers. They can also do their part by keeping grass and shrubs around homes cut short to create drier environments that are less suitable for tick survival.

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