

PRESS RELEASE

## 21st Annual Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival September 15-17, 2017

(TUF Toronto) Over 600,000 visitors are anticipated at this year's Festival. Bloor West Village has been home to thousands of Canadians of Ukrainian heritage. There are over 4 million Canadians who can trace their roots to Ukraine. Visitors come from not only Toronto but also the rest of Canada, USA, Europe, Ukraine, Israel and South America.

The Festival is located on Bloor Street West between Runnymede and Jane streets that are both anchored with entertainment stages. Dancers, musicians, singers, and bands perform non stop on both the Community Stage (at Runnymede Road) and the Northland Power stage (at Jane Street) for the three days of the Festival. There are plenty of varenky (pierogies), sausages, and many other ethnic treats on the street. A refreshment garden offers samples of Ukrainian brands and entertainment throughout the day and evening. Children can enjoy interactive booths and a midway. The cultural pavilions offer a window to appreciate Ukrainian culture and its contributions to Canada.

The Festival kicks off on Saturday morning with a parade of about 1,200 participants, from High Park to Jane street along Bloor Street West. This year's Festival Marshal is Evanka Osmak, the anchor for Sports Net Central. After the parade, special guests bring greetings from the Jane Street stage.

Entertainers this year are coming from across Canada, Ukraine and USA. A special time is set for the younger entertainers to showcase their artistic talents both Saturday and Sunday. A special treat from Ukraine, will be an opportunity to participate in Kareoki sessions during the Festival.

We invite everyone to visit this total family experience from September 15<sup>th</sup> through to Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>. Access is best via the TTC since parking is very limited.

Join us for the beginning of our next twenty years of the Toronto Ukrainian Festival, the largest Ukrainian street festival in North America.

For more information, visit our website: <a href="www.ukrainianfestival.com">www.ukrainianfestival.com</a> or call 416-294-7853.