



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community partners unite to bring back popular Family Day WinterFest South Huron on Holiday Monday, February 20, 2017

Thousands of people visit South Huron area on Family Day holiday
Family Day events to include Lions' Family Breakfast, snowshoeing, skating, fireworks, more

Winter may have seemed like a long way away, during the warm first half of November, but community partners had already met to start the plans for fun, family-friendly activities for the Family Day Holiday Monday in February of 2017.

Thousands of people have come to the South Huron area since 2010 for Family Day WinterFest South Huron. This popular winter festival takes place on Holiday Monday, February 20, 2017. The community groups held their first (and only) organizational meeting on November 14, 2016 to get the ball rolling (or to get the "snowball" rolling). Volunteer George Finch has coordinated the partnership event since its inception and he said the festival has continued to grow thanks to the groups and organizations that support it. There are events for all ages and chances for people to try out new things – even if they have never tried them before.

Family Day WinterFest South Huron events have included fireworks; horse-drawn wagon rides; Exeter Lions Club family breakfast; free family snowshoeing; Pickle Ball; free family skating; billiards; darts; family-friendly movies; and more. "Come on out and give one of these things a try on Family Day in 2017," said Finch.

Some events are at South Huron Recreation Centre and some events are at MacNaughton Park as well as other Exeter and area locations. Most events are free. Visit familydaywinterfest.ca to find out about new events as they are added, to find out times and locations, and to see which events are free and which ones require admission. Keep posted as well to the growing list of generous sponsors. Some events depend on snow but there are indoor events as well and "snow or no snow, WinterFest is a go!"

Partnerships surrounding Family Day continue to develop and engage the entire community in play for the entire day, said Jo-Anne Fields, Community Services Manager with the Municipality of South Huron. "Come out and celebrate family togetherness in South Huron," she said.

Anyone who would like to host an event or donate to WinterFest is asked to contact George Finch. More events are expected and are to be added to familydaywinterfest.ca as they are confirmed.

The Exeter Lions Club held its first Family Day Breakfast in 2010. That breakfast has become a popular annual tradition since then. Other community groups joined forces with the Lions Club starting in 2011 to add other family-friendly activities for the holiday Family Monday. The success of the one-day winter festival has continued to "snowball" ever since.

"This local Family Day winter festival is a shining example of community members working together," said Finch. "It gives us ways to enjoy our time with families during our traditional Canadian winter."

– 30 –

CONTACT: George Finch, Chairperson, Family Day WinterFest South Huron at gfinch@cabletv.on.ca or 519-235-2099

PHOTO CUTLINE: Shown at the organizational meeting for Family Day WinterFest South Huron are, from left to right in photo, Barry Miller and Laura Miller, of Miller's Country Store; Paul Scott, Exeter Lions Club; Bill Weiss and Chuck Mallette, Exeter Senior 55+ Picklers; Tom Passmore, Exeter Lions Club; Darcey Cook, Program and Events Coordinator, Municipality of South Huron; Jeff Musser, Exeter District Chief, South Huron Fire Department – Fireworks by Exeter Station Firefighters' Association; George Finch, Family Day WinterFest South Huron coordinator; Dave Frayne, Chairman, Friends of the South Huron Trail and free family snowshoeing event; and Justin Reid, Exeter Lions Club.