

Almonte Celtfest

2020 Festival Cancellation Press Release

April 14, 2020

Almonte, ON

To Our Supporters,

We at Almonte Celtfest have always aimed to facilitate a fun and safe environment in which to provide a variety of programming with music at the forefront. This year marks the 24th anniversary of a long-running festival that has become a summertime staple in the community and has grown steadily since its first event. Thanks to years of incredible support from visitors, residents, businesses, and performers alike this festival has grown to attract crowds from all over and musical performances by nationally and internationally recognized acts. The amount of time and energy that is dedicated each year to the planning, organization, and execution of an event this large is no small feat and we are thankful to all of the volunteers who help out at each event throughout the year and on the festival weekend.

It is with great disappointment and heavy hearts that the Board of Directors for the 2020 festival have come to the decision that this year's festival cannot go on as planned. We are saddened to announce that the July 3-5 2020 festival is officially cancelled.

There are many reasons and considerations that brought us to this decision. But ultimately the safety of our families, guests, volunteers, vendors and performers are the top priority. We are determined to make your experience at Almonte Celtfest as wonderful as possible and the restrictions in place due to covid-19 by all levels of government are to keep you safe. Our Board of Directors also believe even if restrictions are lifted in time to have the festival it would be inappropriate to risk your safety this year.

It is regrettable. We are disappointed. You are disappointed. We will miss everyone this year; the performers, artists, vendors, volunteers, sponsors, and of course our guests and visitors. Rest assured, this is not goodbye; Almonte Celtfest will be back for our 25th anniversary in July 2021 with an even bigger and bolder festival and we cannot wait to celebrate with you.

As for Celtfest 2020, the festival may be cancelled but we are still here. We will have you back when we feel it is appropriately safe to gather everyone together again. In the meantime, please be sure to stay tuned for information on potential alternative digital programming, other ways to engage while we ride this out, and check out our "Celtfest Gives Back" project on our website and social media accounts to find out how you can support local and stay involved or how we can support your business during these tough times. This project mirrors our past sponsorship, vendor and partner packages but is completely free for the 2020 to enable us to help our friends and neighbours in whatever way they need at this time.

Additionally, we would like to open up a conversation with our would-be 2020 performers to discuss potential alternative digital programming. We want to offer our platforms and resources to any who may be interested in online performance or other engagement opportunities and are happy to facilitate,

promote, and encourage donations that go directly to the artists for any such events. If you have ideas or are interested in chatting about what could be, give us a shout.

Stay healthy, stay safe and stay kind.

Grá mór (much love),

Almonte Celfest 2020

Board of Directors & Planning Team