



Skate and celebrate – kilts optional

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WESTWOOD TUXEDO

Winnipeggers will soon have the chance to embrace the winter while competing to earn Manitoba some good-natured, seasonal bragging rights.

The St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg will host the Great Canadian Kilt Skate at the Riley Duck Pond in Assiniboine Park on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 1 to 3 p.m.

In a news release, the society's past president and this year's event organizer Evelyn Mitchell said participants don't have to be Scottish, wear a kilt, or even something tartan or plaid to participate in the event – although any of these will help add to the authenticity and fun factors.

The event will feature members of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, a reserve regiment of the Canadian Army, headquartered at Minto Armoury, and the society's pop-up piper will also be there. To help participants keep warm, hot chocolate will be served.

The most important thing is that participants come to the park, lace up their skates, and get into the spirit of things.

Pam Simmons, the society's current president, is looking forward to community members coming together and is hoping Winnipeg can repeat its feat of being named the Great Canadian Kilt Skate Capital of Canada, a title it earned in 2021.

"It's a fun way to get together and celebrate winter," Simmons, who lives in Westwood, said. "I think people in Manitoba really love embracing winter, and since COVID-19, people really want to get out and have fun on the ice with their family and friends, and this way they can get out and enjoy some good Scottish fun."

Simmons emphasized the event has been switched to Assiniboine Park this year from The Forks last year and said there is also a home edition of the event, which has grown in popularity since the start of the pandemic.

Anyone participating in the home edition before Feb. 26 is encouraged to post a photo or video of their skate on social media. Any posts should

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