

# Streetfest a success

*Despite the rain, organizers happy with event*

KATIE RYAN STAFF WRITER

The Saturday scene downtown drew crowds of people to the second annual Summer Streetfest, which is exactly what organizers hoped for. From food to local handmade art and jewellery, flowers and kid-friendly fun, there were 42 vendors in total who took part in the event, along with downtown businesses and a long lineup of performers who shared their talent on the main stage.

The fun kicked off earlier than anticipated though. Streetfest attendees arrived well before 10 a.m., its scheduled start, to check out the festivities.

"I think it was a great event. There was lots of people around, there was such a variety of vendors, really good food and the entertainment was spectacular," said Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce executive Pat Tenney, who estimates there were more than 5,000 in attendance, beating last year's total.

The only major stumbling block for organizers was Mother Nature, said Streetfest committee chair Carley Shkopich. Prior to the afternoon, Streetfest goes and vendors enjoyed the action on the main stage and wide range of attractions, but just before 3 p.m. it began to rain, forcing the event to shut down a few hours earlier than anticipated.

"That's the most disappointing part, we had such support and people enjoying the event so much that they hung around and tried to wait out the rain," said Shkopich. Designed

to showcase what the heart of the Border City has to offer - despite the wet weather - Summer Streetfest 2011 achieved just that, she said.

"The focus is creating awareness of what the downtown has and what's here to offer. We are trying to make it a vibrant, exciting festival for everyone, to draw people downtown," continued Shkopich.

"The businesses downtown were happy with the number of people that were around and walking into their stores, even just getting to know that they were there," said Tenney. "It takes the whole downtown community to pull it off and there were so many people who rallied together this year."

This year organizers revamped the layout of Streetfest, with the aim of increasing the flow of traffic. At the centre, or "hub" said Tenney, was the main stage, which featured everything from hip hop to highland dancing, and the four "spokes" featured Just Kruzin' vintage cars, the farmers' market, children's section and an area for the Art Market and other vendors.

"I think that the performers probably had more of an audience this year and, of course, that's what we want for them, to be appreciated by those who are watching," Tenney said. "It also gave an opportunity for the vendors, the people on the spokes, to be able to see and hear what was happening, and really feel a part of the whole festival."

Summer Streetfest organizers are scheduled to meet this week for a wrap up meeting and discuss next year's event.

# Festival feted artists

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The Arts Without Borders Festival has left its founding members catching their breath, or at least one of them.

According to Gwen Mottram, one of the festival's founding members, this year the five-day festival was filled with many surprises. The number of artists participating in the festival was up from years past, as was the community's participation.

"The response from the local arts community is stronger this year, they're more excited so to receive that response from them is rewarding for us as organizers," said Mottram, Festival Showcase chairman. "The arts build a vibrant community, and for me, a vibrant community provides a better place for everybody to live and for everybody to work and raise a family, so that's why we're doing it."

A wide range and large number of artists took part in the Festival Showcase on June 9, including dancers, writers and musicians, as well as others.

"I was really surprised by the positive feedback from the artists who were performing," said Mottram. "There was a lot of joy in being a part of it, and that actually took me by surprise."

This year's Festival Showcase included a one-act play, 300 Seconds, featuring the Vic Juba Community Players and local director Jennifer Anderson.

"When I came out of the theatre they were in the lower lobby and they were so excited by the response of the audience that they actually started running and wanted a hug," Mottram said with a

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