

Assiniboia celebrates Culture Days

By Donna Cheyne
Times Staff

Hundreds of communities across Canada will be celebrating Culture Days from September 26 to October 2 including Assiniboia.

The week is designed to show that arts and culture play a meaningful role in communities across Canada, and is an opportunity to showcase the diverse artistic and cultural talent in our own backyard that contributes to the vitality of our community.

It's a chance for individuals and families to explore their own undiscovered creativity and experience the creativity of others. It brings creators and the public together and promotes the appreciation for the cultural life found in communities in every province.

Beginning September 26, Culture Days in Assiniboia will start off with a program called An Evening with the Invisible Library, presented by Saskatchewan poet, writer, and editor Paul Wilson from Regina. Together with comic artist Jonah McFadzean, also from Regina, it should be a "fun evening," said organizer Gail Mergen. The pair has collaborated on poems from The Invisible Library, which refers to titles of books that only exist

within books, and will present a show of the poetry comics and then readings by Wilson as well as some Assiniboia writers.,

The event will take place at the Shurniak Art Gallery and the public is invited to attend a free evening of cultural entertainment, sponsored by Saskatchewan Culture and the Shurniak.

The second day of cultural celebration happens on October 1 at the Shurniak where residents are invited to discover the cultural community within Assiniboia. "Celebrate...Participate...Build Communities" is the theme for the day's events and will include displays by the Assiniboia & District Arts Council, the Community Choir, the Music Festival Association, Art Walk, and will be the kick-off for the revival of the Community Band in Assiniboia. Local artists will display their work and performances by local talent are planned. "We've tried to include all the different groups that fall under that (cultural) umbrella," said Mergen.

The event is "free" and "very family oriented" and Mergen said she would like to see people come out and discover for themselves what Assiniboia has to offer in a cultural sense.

