

## ThunderCon 2017 – A World of Possibilities

By H. Leighton Dickson

“*Bring the Thunder*” is the slogan of ThunderCon 2017 and this year, with an impressive lineup of special guests and remarkable programming, Thunder Bay’s Premier Fan Convention is poised to do exactly that. All areas of arts, entertainment, gaming and pop culture will be featured as fans from all walks of life come together to celebrate Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in thundering style.

“We have something for everyone this year,” says ThunderCon chair, Robert Kilgour. “Starting with Robert Picardo of *Star Trek: Voyager*, *Stargate: SG1* and *Atlantis*. He is instantly recognizable with genuine star power and that has really put us on the proverbial map.”

Fans of Japanese anime will delight over voice actor Chuck Huber; video gamers will be thrilled to meet Ubisoft/Bioware writer Ann Lemay and fitness buffs will get a chance to learn from Hollywood actor and body builder, Kevin Porter. Writers and readers will be inspired by speculative fiction author Jayne Barnard and YA author Michelle Kryz, and music lovers will rock out to Ottawa’s *Double Experience* at both the Valhalla Inn and Black Pirates Pub.

“I showed my son this yesterday,” says guest artist Jamie Young, regarding a *Double Experience* music video. “I didn’t think he could get any more excited for ThunderCon than he was... Yeah I was mistaken. Now he is counting the days.”

“Conventions are the activity we most enjoy as a family,” says convention aficionado Krista Rendulic. “We love to dress up and celebrate in an environment surrounded by like minded people, and now, we have this experience in our home town!”

Families are at the heart of ThunderCon and this year, there will be a dedicated KidZone for children ten and under. Also returning is the immensely popular Docking Bay 95 - the Star Wars Zone that features Stormtroopers, bounty hunters and ‘droids galore. *Thunder Games and Gifts*’ Game Zone is also back, bigger and better than ever with the entire Scandia room filled with games, demos and tournaments for all ages and skill levels.

“Hoyt Nowak and his Game Zone team have gone well beyond expectation this year,” says Kilgour. “They’ve turned the Scandia into an amazing experience for everyone from gamers to families and even kids. Where else will you find all the fun and excitement of a Comic Con wrapped together with the best and newest in Gaming? ThunderCon is really unique.”

From specialty vendors to stage performers, costume contests to virtual reality, topical panels to interactive workshops, the sky’s the limit for ThunderCon 2017. And with attendees coming from as far away as Minneapolis, Toronto and Winnipeg, Thunder Bay is set to host an event that’s out of this world.

ThunderCon will be held Sept. 23/ 24, 2017 at the Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. For more information, go to [www.thundercon.org](http://www.thundercon.org) or find them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.