



**The Huron Carole Continues 31-Year Holiday Tradition
of Captivating Storytelling & Giving Back to the Community**

Actor, Singer & Lifetime Philanthropist Tom Jackson Embarks
on a Cross-Country Tour This November

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — October 23, 2018 — The Christmas holidays aren't complete without a visit from one of Canada's most beloved, multi-talented and inspiring personalities, and this year will be no different.

Tom Jackson is set to tour his new seasonal show The Huron Carole, with 17 shows starting November 24th.

In what is now a 30-plus year tradition in support of local community organizations, the actor, singer, and lifetime philanthropist will travel the country performing in his signature storytelling and musical variety show; this year's theme features an inspirational nod towards 'joy.' Joining Tom onstage are multi-award-winning power house musicians including: producer and music director, Tom McKillip; artist, actress, songwriter Carly McKillip; session guitarist and bandleader Darren Savard; roots/swing duo Craig Bignell and Suzanne Levesque of Over the Moon.

Tom Jackson confirms, "This is the season of hope, faith and joy. The Huron Carole is designed to suspend time and to transport you to a place where joy is the gift. When you leave, you can take it with you and keep it for as long as you like."

For Tom, joy is in the act of helping — a gift he shares with communities local and afar year-round through ongoing humanitarian efforts. His boundless passion for creating and inspiring change has generated more than \$200 million in combined monetary and in-kind value for food banks, family service agencies, and disaster relief as a tirelessly active volunteer ambassador for the Canadian Red Cross. Most recently, Tom spends time on the front lines with Calgary's DOAP TEAM (Downtown Outreach Addictions Partnership) dedicated to assisting those in crisis. "It's amazing to see how a client can often go from crisis to stability to joy in real time. Saving lives and helping others is my oxygen."

"I have a really incredible life," he reflects. "It's awesome, and then some. To get to do what I do...once you learn to help others, you'll never be the same." Tom will be releasing a new Christmas single *Soul Angel* in time for the tour's start. "Simply, it's about an Angel who sang Silent Night at the Nativity, and on Christmas day when the rest of the Angels went away, he stayed. He's still here today."

It's with these core messages and a life lived in service to others that Tom Jackson's ability to effect change clearly galvanizes him and at the same time draws exceptional contributors to The Huron Carole from the corporate, entertainment, and philanthropic communities nationwide.

Nationally sponsored by Great-West Life, London Life, and Canada Life, The Huron Carole will continue Tom's tradition of giving to the communities it visits. Travel from BC to NL is supported by Suncor Energy Inc., the tour's transportation sponsor.



The Huron Carole 2018 Tour Dates (with local beneficiary)

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| November 24 | Camrose, AB - Festival of Trees, Camrose Regional Exhibition
<i>(various, including Camrose Food Bank)</i> |
| November 26 | Calgary, AB - Bella Concert Hall, Mount Royal University
<i>(Alpha House)</i> |
| November 29 | Calgary, AB - Calgary Golf & Country Club
<i>(Alcove Recovery)</i> |
| November 30 | Lloydminster, AB/SK - Vic Juba Theatre
<i>(The Salvation Army/Olive Tree)</i> |
| December 2 | Clarenville, NL - Eastlink Events Centre
<i>(Clarenville Food Bank)</i> |

December 4	Toronto, ON - Fleck Theatre, Harbourfront Centre <i>(The Stop/Feed It Forward)</i>
December 5	Calgary, AB - The Petroleum Club <i>(Hull Child & Family Services)</i>
December 7	Winnipeg, MB - All Saints Church <i>(Winnipeg Harvest)</i>
December 8	Brandon, MB - WMCA <i>(The Counseling Centre)</i>
December 9	Humboldt, SK - Jubilee Hall <i>(Performing Arts Community of Humboldt)</i>
December 11	Edmonton, AB - Edmonton Inn <i>(Edmonton's Food Bank)</i>
December 12	Medicine Hat, AB - Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre <i>(to be announced)</i>
December 13	St. Albert, AB - The Arden Theatre <i>(St. Albert Food Bank)</i>
December 14	Fort Saskatchewan, AB - Dow Centennial Centre, Shell Theatre <i>(to be announced)</i>
December 15	Fort McMurray, AB - Keyano Theatre <i>(to be announced)</i>
December 17	Prince Albert, SK - EA Rawlinson Centre for the Arts <i>(Prince Albert Food Bank)</i>
December 18	Victoria, BC - Centennial United Church <i>(The Mustard Seed)</i>

ABOUT TOM JACKSON

As the founder of The Huron Carole Benefit Concert Series, it's impossible to regard Tom's music separately from the other aspects of his remarkable career which include (but are not limited to) countless marquee TV roles on hit shows like *North of 60*, *Shining Time Station*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, and *Law & Order*. Upcoming roles in Season 3 of *Cardinal* and Season 2 of *Red Earth Uncovered* follow. Earlier this year marked the release of *The Essential Tom Jackson*, a dazzling two-disc, 21-track retrospective spotlighting his inimitable talent as a folk-pop singer/songwriter of the highest order and an artist intrinsically linked to the world around him, both the real and the ethereal.

There's also movies, lots of movies, including a forthcoming dark comedy thriller, *Cold Pursuit*, opposite Liam Neeson. The Irish actor joins a long and very boldface list of onetime Tom Jackson colleagues — also including but not limited to — Eric Bana, Olivia Wilde, Kris Kristofferson, and Sissy Spacek (in 2012's *Deadfall*), Bruce Greenwood (2005's *Mee-See: The Water Giant*), and Bryan Brown (1999's *Grizzly Falls*). Notably, many small- and big-screen parts have leveraged Tom's Indigenous heritage for their dynamic characters; still others have employed his mellifluous tones for voiceovers.

Tom is understandably proud of all that. Yet it is his extensive charitable work — in particular, helming the long-running Huron Carole Christmas concert tours for Canadian food banks plus multiple other initiatives benefiting disaster relief — that is arguably his crowning achievement. With over \$200 million in combined cash/in-kind value for food banks and disaster relief raised to date, it's no wonder Tom, currently an Ambassador for the Red Cross, has been inducted as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2000, and received the 2007 Juno Humanitarian Award, and the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement in 2014.

Multiple additional honours, including the 2007 Gemini Humanitarian Award, have been bestowed on him over the years. But those above-mentioned three, perhaps more than any others, have cemented his status as one of Canada's most influential, distinguished, and revered sons.

ON THE HURON CAROLE:

The very first show Tom Jackson did of this kind was in 1987 in Toronto. Having booked a larger venue which fell through, he pivoted the performance to The Silver Dollar Saloon. It didn't make any money, but it raised awareness and a lot of spirits. When he met his wife Alison, the pair took the show to Winnipeg, thus laying foundation for nearly three decades of 15+ shows annually in communities across the country.

In 2016, Tom Jackson and The Huron Carole's team were evacuated off the highway in the midst of a massive blizzard outside of Virden, Manitoba. Being 70km away from Brandon where they were set to perform that night, the entire cast and crew soon found themselves in a makeshift emergency shelter processed by The Red Cross, of which Tom is already an active ambassador for and supports tirelessly in his spare time.

The show went on, but in the pop-up shelter quickly assembled by relief volunteers. Having managed to bring a handful of instruments from the tour bus, soon the recreation centre was transformed into a Christmas community all its own, with hundreds of evacuees and local responders entertained by holiday songs and stories.

Last year's Christmas 150 was in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary, drawn deep from the well of Tom's extensive anecdotes, and experiences visiting every corner of the country throughout his life. Blending music with storytelling and visual aides, the country's birthday and future were honoured.

This year's show continues Tom Jackson's ongoing success in sharing inspirational messages and music of the season with equally inspirational benefits to the local community.

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