



News Release

spokaneriverfrontpark.org

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NATIONAL CAROUSEL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE COMING TO SPOKANE

The 2010 National Carousel Association Convention, Carousels of Discovery, will be held in Spokane September 21-26. **This is a great opportunity for anyone locally who likes carousels and wants to learn more about them from national experts.**

The 2010 NCA Convention will be headquartered at the Ramada Spokane Airport. Co-Convention Chairs, Don and Bette Largent and a planning committee have worked long and hard to design a convention that will be both fun and educational. Bette is the current President of the National Carousel Association, and her spouse, Don, is Group Sales Coordinator for Riverfront Park. Spokane's Loeff Carrousel will be a focal point for the conference as will short regional tours to other carousels in the region.

For more information or to register for the conference, see the web site, www.nca-usa.org/2010Convention.html

About the National Carousel Association

Since 1973 the National Carousel Association has been working to keep America's remaining carousels in operation. Through a wide range of programs and projects, the NCA has participated in the restoration and preservation of many of the antique carousels in operation in our country today.

About the Riverfront Park Loeff Carrousel

On July 18, 1909, Riverfront Park's cherished Loeff Carrousel began operation in Natatorium Park, an amusement park on the bank of the Spokane River on the

west side of Spokane. After entertaining many generations of children and families, "The Nat" closed its doors for good in 1967 and the Carrousel was put in storage. In the early 1970s a plan was discussed to bring the Carrousel out of storage to display it during Expo 74. But, concerned that the crowds could damage the hand-carved Carrousel, it remained in storage for one more year and made its debut in Riverfront Park in 1975 in a building that had been constructed for Expo. Fortunately for the City, the Carrousel has remained in Spokane all these years and to date all of the Carrousel's original figures are still making their rounds, and they look as good (or maybe even better) today as they did in 1909.

About Riverfront Park

Spokane's fabulous hand-carved Loeff Carrousel is a focal point in our 100-acre urban park, located on the site of the Expo '74 World's Fair. Here you'll find lots to do and explore including:

- Natural beauty of lush green meadows & a cascading river
- Scenic SkyRide over the Spokane Falls
- Thrilling experiences with the giant screen IMAX Theatre
- "Enchanted Forest" Mini-Golf
- Seasonal skating at the Ice Palace
- Nostalgic rides on the 1909 historic Loeff Carrousel
- Traditional fun with the Dragon Coaster, Ferris Wheel, Bumper Cars, and more

Riverfront Park embraces a full schedule of family entertainment and events including First Night Spokane, Bloomsday Post-Race Celebration, Spokane's 4th of July Community Celebration, Hoopfest, Unity in the Community, Kid's Day, Pow Wow, Pig-Out in the Park, plus many outdoor concerts & other community activities, all located in Spokane's Premiere Playground. For more information on Park attractions please visit www.spokaneriverfrontpark.com

About Spokane Parks and Recreation

City of Spokane Parks and Recreation is responsible for the professional management and prudent caretaking of more than 4,100 acres of developed parks and conservation land. The Golf Division maintains and operates four championship municipal golf courses, including Indian Canyon, Downriver, Esmeralda and the Creek at Qualchan. Park Operations has responsibility for the maintenance of all park land and park facilities in the City of Spokane including Riverfront Park, Manito Park, Gaiser Conservatory, the many city-wide gardens, and Finch Arboretum. Urban Forestry staff manages 50,000 street trees and another 28,000 trees on developed park land within the City of Spokane. The Recreation/Entertainment Division offers classes, special events, athletic leagues and activities for youth, teens, adults, seniors and persons with physical and mental disabilities. It also operates Riverfront Park attractions, activities and events, and provides support for community centers, senior

centers, the Northeast Youth Center, Corbin Art Center and outdoor swimming pools. For more information please visit www.spokaneparks.org

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