

**Sault Ste. Marie Science Festival Kick-off**

**Friday, April 25**

**[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]**

Good afternoon everyone, I'm pleased to join you here today for the launch of the 2018 Sault Ste. Marie Science Festival.

As always, it is great to have our Member of Provincial Parliament, Ross Romano, with us and while he couldn't be here in person, it was nice to hear and see our Member of Parliament, Terry Sheehan.

I'd also like to welcome Science North CEO Guy Labine and our other guests from Science North here to Sault Ste. Marie and I would like to thank Barbara Harten and the team at the FJ Davey Home for hosting today's media launch for the festival.

Today, we are launching the fourth year of the Sault Ste. Marie Science Festival. The festival is growing in its offerings and it is also gaining wider recognition for its unique and creative character.

We can accomplish so much more when we work together collaboratively, and the establishment and growth of the festival over the past four years is proof of that.

On behalf of the City, I'd like to thank the partners once again: Algoma University, the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre, Entomica, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Invasive Species Centre, Great Lakes Forestry Centre, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Sault College, and Science North. I also want to commend the many sponsors, supporters and friends of the festival who have also lent their support.

We have world class scientific research happening in Sault Ste. Marie and cutting-edge technologies in use. It's terrific to have a venue such as the Sault Ste. Marie Science Festival to showcase this work—and the people doing it—to the wider community.

New to the festival this year includes activities related to innovation, math and coding science, further bolstering what is offered.

Thousands of local students will be participating in activities during the five-day festival, and it my sincere hope some of these students will be inspired to one day pursue a career in science, technology, engineering or math.

In saying that, one of my favourite aspects of this event is the activities available to people of a variety of different ages, from the Science Olympics for elementary and high school students to Sciences for Seniors, the festival offers something for everyone.

So to all involved, thank you for your efforts and best wishes for another successful festival this year.

Thank you.