



Singer-Songwriter Will Gillespie announces the release of

# HURRICANE OF FIRE

the second single from his new album

## MINE!

### TRUE STORIES & LEGENDS OF THE PORCUPINE GOLD RUSH

Available in streaming and digital formats on May 17, 2024.

**For Immediate Release (May 7, 2024):** Singer-Songwriter Will Gillespie announces the release of, "Hurricane of Fire", the second single from his album "Mine! True Stories & Legends of the Porcupine Gold Rush". "Hurricane of Fire" will be available for download and streaming on May 17, 2024 on CD Baby, Band Camp, Spotify and YouTube. The official album release will be a Hamilton Arts Week Signature event on June 9, 2024 at Fieldcote Memorial Park & Museum in Ancaster, Ontario.

The town of South Porcupine, Ontario was razed to the ground on July 11, 1911 by an inferno known as "The Great Fire." There were seventy-three confirmed deaths, although as many as two hundred people were estimated to have lost their lives. Many sought refuge from the blaze in Porcupine Lake, but tragically then perished due to drowning or hypothermia.

The fast-paced, frenetic music on “Hurricane of Fire” captures the urgency of fleeing for your life while being chased by a wall of flame. The lyrics show glimpses of different moments from that fateful day. From a bank manager frantically stuffing money into suitcases before it all goes up in smoke, to a fistfight on a dock as people struggle to get into rescue boats heading across the lake, which is being stirred up into a frenzy of nine-foot waves brought on by the explosion of a train car loaded with dynamite. One woman gives birth in the middle of this chaos, bringing new life into this world, while dozens of others are losing their lives all around her. It is all based on true events that happened during “The Great Fire”.

Featured on this track along with Gillespie (vocals, guitar, percussion) are local Hamiltonian musicians Tyrone Ramsey (banjo and upright bass), Chris Cracknell (accordion), Mike McCurlie (mandolin) and Matt Coleman (Violin). The album was mastered by Ryan Barwin at Hazy Grove recording studio in Hamilton, Ontario with graphic design by Jason Diesbourg.

“Mine! True Stories & Legends of the Porcupine Gold Rush” features twelve new, original songs written and performed by Gillespie in various historic styles including Bluegrass, Ragtime, Waltz, Barrelhouse Blues, Music Hall, Cabaret and more. The songs on the album tell harrowing real-life stories from a forgotten chapter of Canadian history, the Porcupine Gold Rush of 1909. You can preorder the album on iTunes (digital), Spotify (digital), Bandcamp (digital, CD & vinyl) or via [www.willgillespie.ca](http://www.willgillespie.ca) (digital, CD & vinyl). Physical copies can be signed at the June album release event.



**WILL GILLESPIE:** Will Gillespie is a singer-songwriter, musician and entertainer from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Originally from South Porcupine, Ontario, he is a finger-pickin' folk troubadour with an expansive and eclectic repertoire of his own unique original songs: from whimsical ditties to foot-stomping rockers, and heart-breaking ballads, exploring Folk, Folk-Rock, Jazz, Cabaret, Blues, Waltzes, Old-Time, Rockabilly, and other timeless, classic musical styles. **(Photo Credit: Susan Robinson)**



**CHASING SHADOWS PRODUCTIONS:** Will Gillespie and Susan Robinson formed Chasing Shadows Productions in 2017. They created and produced the award-winning musicals “Swingin’ in St. John’s” and “Diamond in the Rough”. For every Chasing Shadows production Gillespie is the writer, director, composer, lyricists and lead actor while Robinson is the producer and visual artist. In 2022 and 2023 they toured across Ontario with an original theatrical production that evolved into the “MINE! True Stories and Legends of the Porcupine Gold Rush” concept album.



**HAMILTON ARTS WEEK:** Initiated in 2015 by the Hamilton Arts Council, Hamilton Arts Week will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. The festival has become a key event in Hamilton’s cultural calendar and continues to grow in its promotion of the arts and culture sector. <https://www.hamiltonartscouncil.ca/artswEEK>

[www.willgillespie.ca](http://www.willgillespie.ca)