



Festival Notes

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Fall Is Just Around The Corner!

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

I had just started making up our new fall visit schedule and when I suddenly realized that most of the events I was considering were fall related, fairs (lots of them!), craft shows and art studio tours! Where the 'heck' did the summer go?!?! It seems like yesterday that I was writing about spring flower shows and maple syrup festivals! Somehow it doesn't seem fair that summer should pass so quickly. Maybe we could get the government to pass a law against it! Well, perhaps not. I guess all I can do is to 'suck it up' and look forward to the coming sights, sounds and smells of fall.

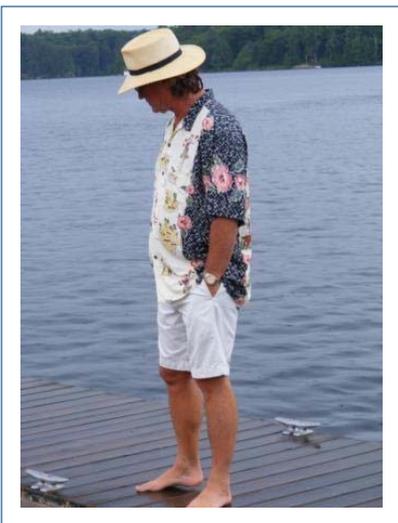
Making Up For Lost Time...

Rain and thunderstorms certainly took their toll this summer. We missed a few events and had to postpone two. When we went to an event we never knew whether to take a rain coat or not. Unfortunately taking one was almost always the best choice! This past August it was make up time! We had planned to visit 9 festivals and ended up visiting 8. We change one, found one and missed two. A pretty good record considering the year we have had! The first event in August was the **Rosseau Classic Cruise**. This was their first year and, of course, it rained! It didn't, however, seem to dampen the spirit and enthusiasm of either organizers or visitors. We even got to a movie star along the way! Our next event was a **Fur Trade Re-enactment** at Lang Pioneer Village. This replaced **Canal Days**. The Fur Trade Re-enactment was very interesting and educational. The next weekend we drove to Shelburne for the **Canadian Open Old Time Fiddle Championships**. It was a very long trip and unfortunately it rained all the time we were there! We had taken our 4 year old granddaughter with us and at the end of the day we all looked like drowned 'rats'! Sunday proved better weather wise and we had a great day in Kingston at the **Sheep Dog Trails**. The following week we were able to add a festival to our schedule. The **Northumberland Ribfest** was taking place in Cobourg so we were able to sample the excellent ribs that were being offered. On the Sunday we traveled Northumberland County on the **Rural Ramble Farm Tour**.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Fall Is Just Around The Corner!
- 1 Making Up For Lost Time...
- 2 Memories
- 3 Festival Ideas
- 4 Festival Tips

*"Rain and thunder storms
certainly took..."*



*"We even saw a movie star!"
Rosseau Classic Cruise*

Please see *Making Up For Lost Time...* on page 2

Making Up For Lost Time ... from page 1

It was great visiting all the farm related sites and activities. Towards the end of the month we finally go to go to Fort Henry in Kingston. This was a tremendous feat considering that we had had to cancel twice due to weather. At Fort Henry we were able to experience their **Sunset Ceremony**. It was spectacular! Our final event in August was the **Peterborough Festival of Lights**. We were lucky that the weather stayed clear. This was the festival last concert for the year! We spent the afternoon walking around the park at Little Lake and listening to music on the festivals secondary stage. In the evening we watched and listen to two great "Rock and Roll" groups. We were not disappointed with what we saw and heard! And, miracle of miracles, it didn't start to rain until end of the concert's fireworks display!

September won't be quite as hectic. Here is a list of the festivals and events tentatively scheduled:

September 6th - Orono Fair

September 14th - "Dine and Shine" at Lang Pioneer Village

September 21st - Pioneer Fall Fair at the Scugog Shores Museum

September 28th - The Word on the Street (Toronto)

"Our first adventure together..."



"They all sang together as they paddled!"
Fur Trade Re-enactment...
Lang Pioneer Village

Memories

The other night I was talking with my Grandson and telling him about a new event I wanted to take him to in August. As we spoke I started to think about other adventures we had undertaken together and the fun we had! Our first adventure together was actually with his whole family - Mom, Dad, Brother and little Sister. The festival was the "Spring Toad Festival" held at the Toronto Zoo. I marveled that he and his brother and sister could find fun sitting and playing on stone carved animals or climbing through cave like structures, but they did! Even the delight of having their faces painted at the "Toad" marsh was inspiring. The first event he and I attended alone was the Antique and Classic Boat Show held in Gravenhurst. We traveled the back roads to get to the show and talked excitedly about what we might find there. We stopped along the way for a "Tim's" treat and then at the Muskoka Trading Post to see if we could find presents for his brother and sister. It was a "no go", but we did manage to score 2 free buckets of "Nibs Ice Cream" bits. Then it was on to the show to admire all the antique and classic boats. It was great fun talking about the boats and showing him which ones I drove when I was his age. To me, of course, they were neither classic nor antique, but to my Grandson they were! That's age for you! We argued which ones we liked best, but in the end we both agreed that they were all pretty "neat".



"Fiddle Centre"
Old Time Fiddle Championships

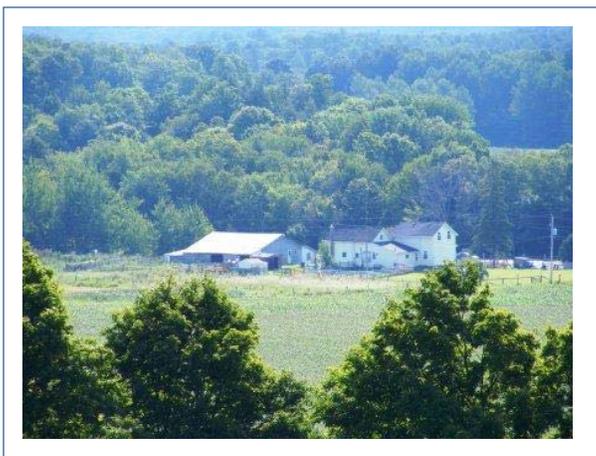
Please see *Memories...* on page 3



"Patience!"
Kingston Sheep Dog Trials



"Bibb's BBQ"
Northumberland Ribfest



"We learned about dairy farming"
Rural Ramble Farm Tour

Memories ... from page 2

After lunch we drove home companionably, happy to have had such a great day! Our last outing was the Lang Pioneer Village for their "Christmas by Candlelight". We arrived early so that I could take some pictures in the daylight. Darkness and night arrived quickly and we headed for the village's Visitor Centre. There we were greeted by staff who gave us a village map and an agenda of the evening's festivities. Our first stop was in the gallery at the back of the centre. Here kids could decorate gingerbread cookies with icing. From there we went into a side room to talk with "Father Christmas". Then it was outside into the cool of the night. A horse drawn hay wagon was waiting to take visitors on a journey around the village square. My Grandson climbed aboard with other adventurers. I waited and listened to Christmas carolers. When the trip was over we walked the village investigating each building. At the Fitzpatrick House we learned how to make rag dolls. At the Keene Hotel we had cookies and hot chocolate. We sang carols in the town hall and made a Christmas cracker in the old school house. We took it all in with quiet enthusiasm! After our Christmas tour we traveled to Peterborough for a well earned dinner. These were wonderful memories, ones that I will always keep and will build on in the future. Of course, as our other Grandchildren grow a little older, the memories will for all of us!

Festival Ideas...

Each month this section features ideas gained from attending so many festivals. For the September issue we want to talk about the cost of traveling to festivals and events. A few weeks ago I wrote an article on "The Adventures of a Festival Nomad" blog about this subject. We are republishing it for your enjoyment/information?

Economical Travel...

With the high price of gas these days, it's hard for the "Festival Nomad" to travel inexpensively. Unfortunately, unlike my desert namesakes, I don't ride (drive) a camel that can go forever on a tank of "water"! Although my vehicle, a Honda Civic, is fairly gas efficient, it's not perfect and neither is my driving. I'm like many people, I want to get there yesterday! I usually push the envelop by driving 20km above the highway speed limit. That is, I did this until a few weeks ago. Judi and I had scheduled a visit to Morrisburg and Upper Canada Village. Taking the 401 Highway, it's about a 3 hour trip, each way. This trip I decided to experiment with my speed.

Please see *Festival Ideas...* on page 4



"The sound of drums reverberated off the Fort's walls"
Sunset Ceremony - Fort Henry



"Sweet – Rockin' and Rollin'!"
Peterborough Festival of Lights



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Festival Ideas ... from page 3

As soon as we got in to the highway I set the cruise control for 103kms. It was weird being passed by so many people, especially the big 18 wheelers! Yes, it did take us a little longer, but our gas mileage was terrific! I couldn't believe we had gone so far on so little gas! We did the same on the way back, only this time I opened the windows and turned off the air conditioning. I continued driving at the lower speeds until my gas tank was almost empty. I had increased my mileage per tank by about 40% or in my case by 250kms. I couldn't believe the final results! I mentioned my experiment to a car expert friend and he said he wasn't surprised by the results, although he didn't think turning off the air conditioner and opening the windows was helpful. He felt that the air drag caused by open window would offset any cost savings. I continued the experiment on all subsequent travels with similar results! My experiment has now turned into a way of life (driving that is)! Besides, by going a little slower we get to appreciate the countryside more! So if you are still driving fast, "honk" as you pass me!

Festival Tips

I haven't been to a "Rock Concert" in a long time, but it was the Peterborough Festival of Lights last concert and the English group "Sweet" was playing. I looked the group up on the internet to learn a little about them and I even listened to some of their music. It's easy to listen to, but very loud!. We have gone up to Peterborough in the afternoon and were able to hear the group go through there sound check. They were **VERY** loud! We talked to festival organizer Kathy Kirkland and asked them how loud they would be during the concert that evening. Kathy gave us some "ear plugs" and suggested we use them if it got too loud! The opening band wasn't too bad, so I kept the ear plugs in my pocket. However, when "Sweet" started to play I stuck them in ears. The strange part is that I quickly took the out. I really enjoyed their music and wanted to hear it fully. Judi on the other hand had retreated to the back of the park. The music was still loud even back their and she was very grateful for the ear plugs! My Festival Tip is - if you are going to go to an event where there is going to be loud sounds (rock concerts, re-enactments and air shows) take a pair of ear plugs, you will never know when you'll need them!