



Festival Notes

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... "the 'Fashion Gods' outranked Mother Nature..."



"Antique steam tractor!"
Orono Fair

Fall Is Here!

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

As I write this article, fall is officially here! So when I decided to wear shorts the other day Judi looked at me as if I was crazy! So why is it that this arbitrary date signals that we can't wear any type of summer clothing, short, white shoes, white pants, loud shirts? Mother Nature doesn't adhere to these rules, so why do we, mere mortals, have to? Perhaps the "Fashion Gods" outrank Mother Nature in the "immortal hierarchy". I guess that's why when I did go out in my shorts, I felt so odd! The Fashion Gods won out even though it was a sunny day and 25°C. Heck, I don't know why I should feel so self conscious! I have an acquaintance of mine who wears shorts all year, even in the dead of winter! I can remember seeing him once, on a snowy winter day, directing the erection of Christmas lights on his town's light standards! Perhaps we should send a memo to the "immortals" suggesting that they coordinate the "Rules" for all the seasons! We, in the festival business have got our act together, because we do follow the "Rules"! Fall Fairs, Applefests, Harvest and Pumpkin Festivals to name a few. So here's the "Festival Nomad's" philosophy, "be comfortable, wear what you want, when you want and have a good time during the upcoming fall festival season! And, if you see a funny looking guy in shorts, it's probably me! Make sure you stop me to say hello!

The Lull Before The Storm...

After a whirlwind of visits in August, September turned out to be much less hectic! We had originally planned to visit four festivals in September, but ultimately visited three. The first one visited was the Orono Fair. This is one of the longest running fairs in Ontario and has a lot of interesting activities. Unfortunately for us a light rain persisted most of the day. A week later we were off to Keene and the Lang Pioneer Village. The Dine and Shine event that we visited was excellent. The last event we visited in September was in Port Perry. The Scugog Shores Museum was holding its annual Pioneer Fall Fair. This was a great example of how our forefathers celebrated the fall harvest. The one scheduled festival that we did miss was The Word on the Street. This festival was held in Toronto at Queen's Park. It was an event we really wanted to go to, but circumstances caused us to cancel at the last minute. We will try again next year.

Please see *The Lull Before the Storm...* on page 2

The Lull Before the Storm ... from page 1

October is now upon us and it looks like it's going to be almost as busy as August! The following is a list of our planned visits:
 October 5th - **Applefest** at Lang Pioneer Village
 October 11th - **Vineland Arts & Crafts Show**
 October 11th - **O'Shavings Country Craft Show** in Vineland
 October 13th - **Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Parade**
 October 13th - **Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show**
 October 18th - **Migration Festival** in Kingsville
 October 25th - **International Festival of Authors** at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto

"... I realized how large a part animals played..."



"Kids Zoo"
Kingston Shop Dog Trials



"They all sang together as we ate!"
Dine and Shine...
Lang Pioneer Village

Attention Animal Lovers...

It's amazing how well festivals and animals fit together! I had never really thought about it until I started examining festivals and their common links. The more I thought about, the more I realized how large a part animals played in the majority of festivals Judi and I had visited. Out of the last 10 festivals visited, 7 had had animals involvement in one form or another! I'll quickly go down the list. **The Fur Trade Re-enactment at Lang Pioneer Village** had a number of farm animals plus a horse drawn wagon ride. The **Old Time Fiddle Championships in Shelburne** had a number of horses in their parade. The **Kingston Sheep Dog Trials** was really animal oriented! There were, of course, dogs (Border Collies) and sheep, but they also included 2 horse drawn shuttle wagons, a birds of prey demonstration by the **Canadian Raptor Conservancy** plus two other animal presentations, one by **Jungle Cat World** and the other by **Little Ray's Reptiles!** The **Rural Ramble Farm Tour** featured numerous farm animals including cows, pigs, chickens, sheep and horses. At the **Fort Henry Sunset Ceremony**, the Fort Henry Guard's mascot is a goat named David IX. The **Orono Fair** had animals galore, chicken (lot of them!), ducks, rabbits, cows and horses!

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"Royal Mascot – David IX!"
Sunset Ceremony at Fort Henry

Attention Animal Lovers ... from page 2

Finally, at the Dine and Shine in Lang Pioneer Village, not only did they have their traditional horse drawn wagon ride, but they had their own unique brush with wildlife! Just as Village Museum Manager, Joe Corrigan, was about to welcome the attendees, a flock of Canada Geese flew over the event giving us all a very loud, but appreciated Canadian "fly-by" (NASCAR eat your hearts out!!) So, if you are an animal lover, Ontario festivals and events are a must for you!

Festival Ideas...

Each month this section features ideas gained from attending so many festivals. For the October issue we want to talk about Kingsville Migration Festival. 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?

The Migration Festival...

October is here and the birds are gathering together for their flight down south! Each year the Town of Kingsville celebrates the winged migration of the Canada Goose and other migratory birds. The community has a long tradition of conservation, starting with its famous resident Jack Miner. The citizens of Kingsville have been celebrating the migration and Jack Miner's contributions for many years, 39 to be exact. This year, however, is different! The festival's organizers decided that they wanted to share their joy and excitement with the rest of Ontario! So, to encourage everyone to attend, they have kicked their festival program and their marketing up several notches! Right from their 6:30 PM opening ceremonies on Friday, October 17th to their long list of activities and events, the Migration Festival has everything planned for their 3 day celebration! Their special guest, Tennessee singer/songwriter, Randal Haley, will perform his country hit, "Blackey and the Jack Miner Band" at the opening ceremonies and will act as Parade Marshall for the Migration Festival Parade.

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"Cooking Corn on the Cob!"
Pioneer Fall Fair
at Scugog Shores Museum



"Horse and wagon competition"
Orono Fair



*"People Choice Winners with
Museum Manager, Joe Corrigan"*
Dine & Shine
at Lang Pioneer Village



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Judi and I looking forward to joining the fun and celebrations. We are driving to our artist friend's home in Essex on Friday afternoon and then on to Kingsville. To find out more about the Migration Festival and all it has to offer, go to their website at <http://www.migrationfestival.ca/Parade.htm>. See you there!

Festival Tips

Road Closures...

You've heard the old expression "Expect the unexpected!" haven't you? While that can be particularly true when planning festival visits. Bad weather is fairly easy to predict. Weather forecasts unfortunately are usually pretty reliable. Road closures caused by accidents, however, are not predictable! These is especially true if driving through the Toronto area! Here's an example. We were going to the Toronto Santa Claus Parade. When we started out all highways were clear. Then it happened. There was a major accident on the Don Valley Parkway and the highway had been shut down. Everything was fine until we reached the outskirts of Toronto and then all hell broke loose! Traffic came to a standstill on the 401 highway! There were three major events taking place in Toronto that day! Fortunately we were driving with friends of ours. The drive had been raised in east Toronto and know all the back roads. After a while we make our way to an exit and then it was back roads all the way! We avoided hours of stop and go traffic by being able to find an alternative route. We were fortunate this time because we had a road knowledgeable person driving. Here's my tip. Road closures can happen anytime and anyplace. Before you leave on any long outings (especially where you don't know the back roads) plan alternative routes. This can be accomplished by having detailed road maps or by going onto the internet and logging onto one of the map sites. Judi and I use the map feature provided by Google. We find it the easiest to use. We use this site for finding both the most direct route and a couple of good alternative routes. We print them off and take them with us on our trip. By doing this planning, your frustration level will decrease and your enjoyment level will increase.