



Festival Notes

November 2008
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“... lazy days spent by the the warmth of a fire ”



“Spinning”
**O’Shavings Country Craft Show
in Vineland**

The Month of Changes...

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

So here we are; it’s November already! Christmas is less than 2 months away and closing fast! November certainly is the month of changes. Autumn leaves turn from bright reds and oranges to dull browns. Fully leaved trees become skeletons. The warmth of Indian summer turns cold in the brisk November winds. Fall turns to winter and the hustle and bustle of summer turns into long lazy days spent by the warmth of a fire. November is also the month of remembering and anticipation! On November 11th we remember those who fought for freedom and gave the ultimate sacrifice. At the end of November it’s the anticipation by our children of things to come, Santa Claus parades, homes and stores being decorated and Christmas music. The holiday season is almost upon us, as is the lure of freshly fallen snow! November, a month of changes...

Slim Picking!

Wow, that was fast! It seems like yesterday that Judi and I were planning our spring and summer visit schedules! Time passes us by so quickly! Now that October is over, we can contemplate slowing down a little. I have a lot of writing to catch up on! The number of events in the colder months seem to fall off a little, plus the weather always play a determining factor on long distance travel. We are still looking for and attending winter events, but the selection isn’t as vast.

October was a very busy month, almost as busy as August. Our first set of shows was on October 11th in Vineland. We actually visited two arts and crafts shows. First was the O’Shavings Country Craft Show and then the Vineland ARTfest. They were located right across from one another. They were both great shows with very interesting exhibitors. Two days later we headed west to Kitchener-Waterloo and the K-W Oktoberfest Parade. As soon as it was over we drove to Simcoe to the Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show. Yes. It was a very long day. The next weekend we drove to Essex where we were staying overnight at our friend Mary Kendrick’s home. Kingsville was just a few kilometers down the road and we were going there to visit the Kingsville Migration Festival; an event in honor of conservationist, Jack Miner. On the final weekend of the month I visited the Harbourfront Centre and the International Festival of Authors with my friend Paul Putman and then the next day Judi and I went back to Toronto to The Franchise Show.

Please see *Slim Pickings!*... on page 2

Slim Pickings! ... from page 1

In **November** we are still looking for events to visit, but we have earmarked a few:

November 11th - Cobourg Remembrance Day Ceremonies

November 15th - Christmas at Presqu'ile Park

November 21st - Cobourg Christmas Magic (Opening Ceremonies)

November 29th - Port Hope Santa Claus Parade

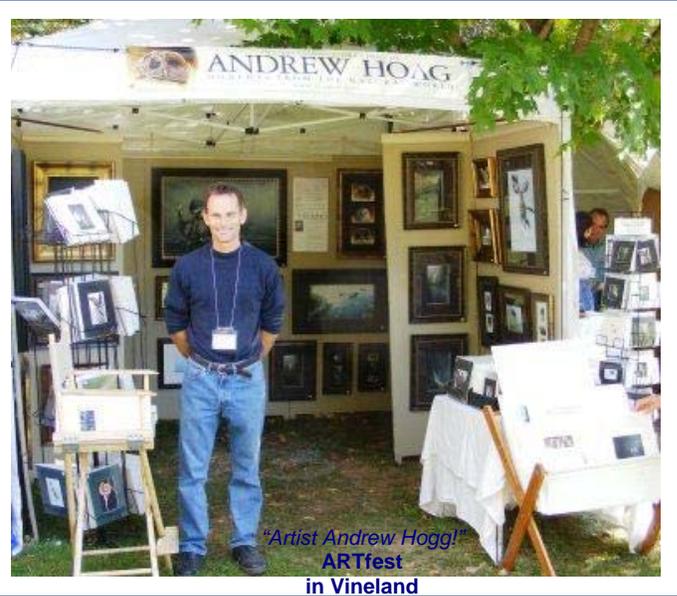
"... we tasted hot chocolate and homemade cookies..."



"The Keene Hotel Kitchen"
Christmas by Candlelight
at Lang Pioneer Village



"Smoking the goose"
Fur Trade Re-enactment
at Lang Pioneer Village



"Artist Andrew Hogg!"
ARTfest
in Vineland

Where History Comes Alive! (Lang Pioneer Village)

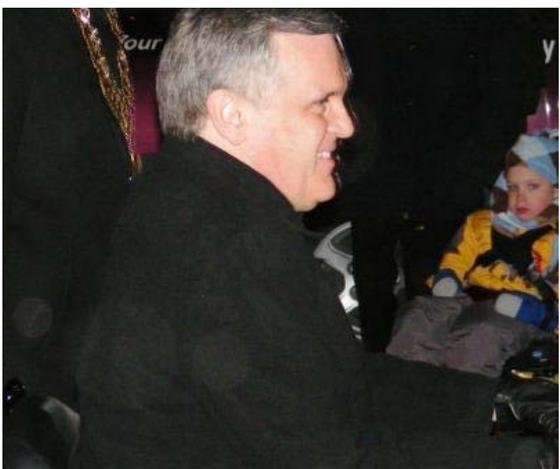
Over the past 9 months, starting last December, we have had the privilege of visiting the **Lang Pioneer Village** 3 times. It would have been 4, but for a flat tire that was caused by a safety pin stuck through the inside sidewall of our back tire! I quickly discovered that you can't repair a tire with a hole in the sidewall, but that is another story! Every time that we have visited the village I have discovered something new! Last winter my grandson and I visited all the village buildings by candlelight. It was the Christmas by Candlelight event. During our tour, we saw Christmas gifts being made at the Fitzpatrick House and how pioneer Christmas was spent in the Fife Log Cabin. At the Keene Hotel we tasted hot chocolate and homemade cookies. At the Douro Town Hall we sang old time Christmas Carols. At the South Lake Schoolhouse my grandson made a homemade "Cracker"! We experienced a horse drawn sleigh ride, wandering carolers and gingerman cookie face decorating. In August of this year, Judi and I learned about the fur trade in Canada at the Lang Pioneer Village's Fur Trade Re-enactment. While we were there we heard some great music played by "Hardtack and Harmony". At the re-enactment we also learned how to paddle a canoe, build a Tipi and smoke a goose!

Please see *Where History Comes Alive!* on page 3



"Musicians, Sheesham and Lotus!"
Dine and Shine
 at Lang Pioneer Village

*"This year, 2008, marks
 their 50th Anniversary..."*



"Last year the Honourable David Onley,
 Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, officially opened
 the **Simcoe Christmas Panorama** and turned on
 the lights!"

Where History Comes Alive! ... from page 2

We saw many pioneer crafts including jewelry making, rock collecting, ironworks, knitting and more. And, I got to explore the village in the daylight! Our latest adventure at the Village was in September where we attended the Dine and Shine event. Here we tasted fabulous steaks prepared by 8 of the area's best chefs. During dinner we heard the old time music of Sheesham and Lotus. Their playful approach to old time music was captivating. After dinner, rifle and cannon shots sounded the start of the Shine portion of the event. Once again I was able to experience the village by candlelight. As we walked through the village buildings, we felt the warmth and charm of the village and its volunteers. **Lang Pioneer Village** is a magical place, where "history comes alive"!

Festival Ideas...

*Each month this section features ideas gained from attending so many festivals. For the November issue we want to talk about the **Simcoe Christmas Panorama**, celebrating its 50th Anniversary! 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?*

Simcoe Christmas Panorama Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary...

Last December Judi and I had the pleasure of visiting the Town of Simcoe and their Christmas Panorama. Yes, the weather was quite cold and a winter storm almost caught up with us on our way home, but the warmth of the event and the people involved made the trip very worthwhile. It is little wonder that this wonderful event has been attracting thousands of visitors over the last 49 years! This year, 2008, marks their 50th anniversary and the organizing committee has been working overtime to make this the best Simcoe Christmas Panorama ever! The Panorama starts this year on November 29th and runs until January 4th. Many great activities are scheduled throughout this 5 week event. The November 29th Panorama starts at 4:45 PM with the Santa Claus Parade. This is followed, at 6:00 PM, by the Opening Ceremonies, which we attended last year, in Wellington Park. The Opening Ceremonies' climax the lighting of thousands of lights!

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



"Prosit!"
Thanksgiving Day Parade
at the Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest celebrations



"Chef Corbin Tomaszewski"
Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show



"Canada Goose Inflatable"
at the Migration Festival Parade
in Kingsville

Festival Ideas ... from page 3

After Santa Claus arrives in his vintage Fire Engine, the downtown merchants open their doors for a gigantic Moonlight Madness Sale. If you can't make it to the Opening day festivities, a trip, during the remaining 5 festival weeks, to see all the lights around the town, is a Christmas must. Check out their website for details (<http://www.simcoepanorama.ca/>).

Festival Tips

Washroom Management... (a delicate subject!)

Whether your young or old or in between, washroom management It's a good idea! How many times have you been on a long trip when the "urge" hits you or a member of your family! When this happens you normally have to find a stop in a hurry! Many GPS's and PDA's have programs that show you where all the stops are along your route. However, if you don't have these technical devices, I suggest you continually keep an eye open for likely places to stop. Visiting festivals, event and attractions can posse similar challenges! Unless, that is, you are like my friend Paul who can go forever without the urge! I suggest exploring your options in advance. This can be done by walking through the event grounds and making note of where the washrooms are located. Better still, if you are visiting a really organized event, they may have created a comprehensive site map! In this case they might well have all the washroom facilities marked! Which ever way you go, remember the old saying! *"When you've got to go, you've go to go!"* Good luck!



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