



Festival Notes

April 2008
Volume 1 Issue 5

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Re-birth...

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

This is the real start of the festival and event season. There have been plenty festivals and events during the winter months, but the problem that we have been having so far is being able to travel in inclement weather. It's hard to make definite plans to travel any distance until the actual festival or event day. This is when we check out the weather to see if it is safe to travel! This year has been particularly harsh weather wise, but spring will be different. It's like a re-birth! There is excitement in the air! It's not just because we can count on being able to "get there". For me, it's the excitement of meeting new people, of traveling to new towns and of experiencing new ideas. And then, of course, there is the planning! That is what we are doing now, trying to plan our schedule for the upcoming spring, summer and fall seasons. It's a daunting task because there are so many great festivals, events and attractions out there! But in the end, it is and will be a labour of love. It is who we are and what we do!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Rebirth...
- 1 NOMAD CONTEST!
- 2 Top 100
- 4 Festival Ideas
- 4 Festival Tips

"This means we must average 2 per week..."

NOMAD CONTEST!

As I have mentioned previously, Judi and I are planning to visit between 75 and 80 Ontario festivals, events and attractions in 2008! So far, with unpredictable weather and some personal commitments, we have only been able to visit 9. This leaves 66 to 71 events left to visit. To put that into perspective, we have 37 weeks left and about 70 events to visit. That means we must average 2 per week over the next 37 weeks! So much for the math! Here's our dilemma, most festivals and events take place during the summer and fall months. That means there are a lot to choose from during those months and we have had a great number of requests from different festival and event organizers to visit their events. There are so many great and interesting festivals and events. It's hard to decide which ones to visit! The problem is we want to visit them all! But, of course, we can't, so we have to make some choices. In doing this, we have to take into consideration timing (month-day-times) and distance.



Taking On The World...

Please see *NOMAD CONTEST...* on page 2

NOMAD CONTEST ... from page 1

Distance is important because, as I mentioned before, we need to visit more than one event per week. I thought we would have some fun and let you help us decide which festivals, events and attractions we should visit during the peek months. So, over the next 4 weeks I am going to publish a monthly list of possible events, etc. to choose from. To view the list simply go to the Ontario Festivals Visited website (www.ontariofestivalsvisited.ca) and click onto "NOMAD CONTEST". When making your choices, please take into consideration timing and distances plus your personal experiences, and then let us know what festivals and events you think we should visit! E-mail your choices to nomad@ontariofestivalsvisited.com. From all the responses, we will draw one name and award a "Nomad Prize" to that person! Once we have made our final schedule, we will publish it in our free monthly Ontario Festivals Visited newsletter, "Festival Notes". If you don't already subscribe our newsletter, click here (<http://www.ontariofestivalsvisited.ca/form.htm>) to order.



*"And the winner is..."
Colborne Old Tyme Apple Blossom Festival*

*"award a NOMAD
PRIZE..."*

Top 100 Ontario Festivals and Events

The Top 100 Festivals and Events in Ontario were announced at the annual Festivals and Events Ontario conference held this past February in London, Ontario. Here is the list.

Collingwood Music Festival
 Doors Open Ontario - Across Ontario
 Canadian Tulip Festival - Ottawa
 Terroir Wine Celebration - Picton
 Lilac Celebration - Burlington
 Carassauga Festival - Mississauga
 Thunder Bay Kite Festival
 Gregor's Crossing Medieval Fair - Chatham
 Illuminaqua - Welland
 Welland Rose Festival
 Dundas Buskerfest
 Burlington's School of Music Festival
 Mississauga Waterfront Festival
 Carousel Festival - Windsor
 Canadian International Tattoo - Hamilton
 Oshawa Fiesta Week
 White Pine Cultural Festival - Blind River
 Italia In Festa - Thorold
 Oakville Waterfront Festival
 Ottawa International Jazz Festival
 Toronto Pride Week
 Toronto Jazz Festival
 Bikers Reunion - Timiskaming Shores
 Friendship Festival - Fort Erie

It's Your Festival - Hamilton
 Festival of Fire - Toronto
 Canada Day Celebration - Ottawa
 Canada Day Celebrations - Oshawa
 Caribana Festival & Parade - Toronto
 World Famous Sunset Ceremonies - Kingston
 Fringe of Toronto Theatre Festival
 Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest
 Sunfest - A Celebration of World Cultures
 Northern Lights Festival Boreal - Sudbury
 Porquis Blues Festival
 Sarnia Rogers Bayfest
 Essex Fun Fest
 Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition
 Art of Being Green - Lanark
 Beaches International Jazz Festival - Toronto
 French Dressing Int'l Dragon Boats Festival
 Mount Forest Fireworks Festival
 Rogers Cup - Toronto
 Collingwood Elvis Festival
 Fergus Truck Show
 Mattawa Voyageur Days
 Hillside Festival - Guelph
 Kapuskasing Lumberjack Heritage Festival
 Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival
 Rogers Chinese Lantern Festival - Toronto
 Rockhound Gemboree - Bancroft
 Kempenfest - Barrie

Please see *Top 100...* on page 3



*The Story Teller at the
Mississauga Waterfront Festival*



A master entertainer at the Beaches
International Jazz Festival

Top 100 ... from page 2

Glengarry Highland Games - Maxville
 Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival - Port Colborne
 Simcoe Rotary Friendship Festival
 Kitchener Blues Festival
 Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games
 Taste of the Danforth - Toronto
 Kingston Sheep Dog Trials
 Canadian Redneck Games - Minto
 MuslimFest - Mississauga
 Buckhorn Fine Art Festival
 SuperEx - Ottawa
 Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) - Toronto
 Winnie's Hometown Festival - White River
 Anishnawbe Keeshigun - Thunder Bay
 Barrie Fair
 Scotiabank Buskerfest - Toronto
 Tecumseh Corn Festival
 Winona Peach Festival
 Shores of Erie International Wine Festival -
 Amherstburg
 Toronto International Film Festival
 Taste of the Kingsway - Etobicoke
 Western Fair - London
 International Plowing Match (IMP) - Teeswater
 Niagara Grape & Wine Festival - St. Catharines
 St. George Apple Fest & Craft Show
 Bushplane Days - Sault Ste. Marie
 Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon
 Port Elgin Pumpkinfest
 Scotiabank Nuit Blanche - Toronto
 Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show - Simcoe
 Ball's Fall Thanksgiving Festival - Jordan
 Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest
 Rockton World's Fair
 Waterford Pumpkin Festival
 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair - Toronto
 Winter Festival of Lights - Niagara Falls
 Festival of Northern Lights - Owen Sound
 Cavalcade of Lights - Toronto
 Simcoe Christmas Panorama
 Portage Flyer Christmas - Huntsville
 Niagara Icewine Festival - St. Catharines
 WinterCity - Toronto
 Bon Soo Winter Carnival - Sault Ste. Marie
 Winterlude - Ottawa
 Barrie Winterfest & Festival of Ice
 Canadian Music Week - Toronto
 Canada Blooms - Toronto
 Maple In The County - Prince Edward County

Festival Ideas...

Each month this section features ideas gained from attending so many festivals. For the April issue we want to talk about the different "Pancake Breakfasts" we have visited. 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?

Pancake Breakfasts...

I have never met a "Pancake Breakfast" I didn't like! It's funny how pancake breakfasts and festivals seem to go together. I think more festivals than not have them. I am likely exaggerating the ratio because I haven't completed a scientific study (yet!), but I found from experience that a whole lot of festivals have them! This, then, brings me to my thoughts for this blog. For as many pancake breakfasts as there are, they all seem to be different in their own way! Take Cobourg Waterfront Festival for instance. They hold their breakfast in Cobourg's Victoria Park. The local Chamber of Commerce members cook the breakfast and the Cobourg Lions Club allows their food and beer tent to be used for eating. The Chamber's cooks are all very good at trading insults with the breakfast crowd. The Wellington Pumpkinfest, held in their community hall, is a very civilized affair. Volunteers take your order as you come in and then bring it to your table. At the Brighton Winterfest you are asked how many pancakes and sausage you want and when you are through, they offer you extra helpings! The Cobourg Winter Festival breakfast, held at the Cobourg Lions Centre, was so successful that they ran out of food. People waited very patiently while the Lions went out to purchase more supplies! The Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival served "locally produced" maple syrup at their breakfast, while the Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival used syrup produced in Quebec! It was too early in the season to produce "local" syrup. All this talking about pancake breakfasts makes me hungry! Here's to the upcoming year and all the new "Pancake Breakfasts" experiences!



Pancake Breakfast at the Frankford Riverfest

"... they ran out of food."



Layering at the Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival

Festival Tips

Layer Your Clothing

This is the time of year when the weather can be very unpredictable. By layering your clothing, you can add or subtract clothing as the weather changes. You may start off in the morning quite cold, but become very hot as the sun comes out and starts to warm everything up. Layering allows you to become your own personal thermostat.

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