



Festival Notes

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Summer Fun...

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"We will miss some wonderful events..."

Bright sun, warm weather and lots of festivals all mark the beginning of summer! It's a time of year when we are all looking for great outdoor fun. Ontario certainly provides its share of entertaining festivals, events and attractions. As I have mentioned before, "so many festivals and event... so little time!" We have now sorted out which festivals we are going to visit over the next few months and are excited with our choices. It's unfortunate that we will miss some wonderful events during this time, but conflicting dates make it impossible to visit all the events we would like to! I am sure that these will be visited in future years. We also plan on visiting some Ontario Attractions on week days, attractions such as the CN Tower, the Diefenbunker, Toronto Centerville Amusement Park and the Canadian Warplane Heritage museum. So, let the "summer fun" begin...

Water, Smoke and Music...

Now it's time to enjoy Ontario's great out-of-doors! Communities across Ontario and North America are gearing up to show visitors the "best time of their lives"! Judi and I are ready to accept the challenge of enjoying each and every festival and event we visit. In May we managed to visit most of the events we had planned to. The **Bowmanville Maple Festival** and **All That Jazz** was great. We were impressed with the resiliency of its people who battled back after a major fire destroyed some of its downtown buildings. The **Rise To Rebellion Re-enactment** held at the Georgina Pioneer Village in Keswick gave us a glimpse into the past. The **Barrie Waterfront Festival** featured lots of music and entertainment. The **Toronto International Circus Festival**, even though organizers had to scramble due to bad weather, provided a number of awesome circus acts that thrilled and amazed the crowds of onlookers.



"William Lyon MacKenzie"
Rise To Rebellion Re-enactment

Please see *Water, Smoke and Music...* on page 2

Water, Smoke and Music ... from page 1

The Tillsonburg Annual Ruffed Grouse Society Banquet was great fun as attendees tried to out bid one another over silent and live auction items. And finally, the Gregor's Crossing Medieval Faire in Chatham offered breath taking duals between four talents Knights. It was an exciting month, but June looks like it might be even better! Here is a list of some of the events we plan on visiting:

Dundas International Buskerfest - June 8th

Richmond Hill Heritage Festival - June 14th

Naval & Military Encampment and Re-enactment (Port Dover) - June 21st

Canadian Aviation Expo (Oshawa) - June 22nd

Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame - June 28th



"Prince Mordred"
Gregor's Crossing Medieval Faire

"We started videoing the festivals and events..."



"QQT Theatrics Aerialist"
Toronto International Circus Festival

Something New...

In an effort to make the Ontario Festivals Visited website more interesting and meaningful to our website visitors, we have started videoing the festivals and events we visit. We started with the **Bowmanville Maple Festival and All That Jazz**. Six video clips have been included in the Bowmanville page. As of writing this article, I am working on the **Rise To Rebellion Re-enactment** page. It, too, will include a number of video clips. It has been a very interesting experience, something new for me and one that I hope to improve and expand on! Trying to figure out the best way to present each clip has been a series of trial and error, but I think, worth the effort. I want to give our readers a better sense of "being there". I hope our readers enjoy them! We are always looking for new innovative ideas to improve our website. If you have any suggestions, please e-mail them to me at gary@ontariofestivalsvisited.ca. I'd be glad to hear from you. Heck, if you send us an idea we can use, I'll send you an exclusive Ontario Festivals Visited baseball cap.

If you haven't listened to our "Nomad" vignettes, give it a try! we have now created, in partnership with Kevin Stuart (morning man at the Cobourg radio station "The Breeze - 93.3FM"), 14 radio vignettes featuring a variety of festivals that Judi and I have visited. We are hoping to convince a number of radio stations to play them as a festival oriented features. There is a list on the website showing all the festivals and events featured in the vignettes.



"Fish Pond"
Bowmanville Maple Festivals &
All That Jazz



"British Soldiers"
Rise To Rebellion Re-enactment



"Music fills the air!"
Barrie Waterfront Festival

Festival Ideas...

Each month this section features ideas gained from attending so many festivals. For the June issue we want to talk about travel games we played as kids to pass the time. 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?

Bury All Your Horses...

When I was a kid, traveling distances with my family, we use to play all sorts of games to pass time. These days the kids play with video games, watch DVD's or listen to their iPod, but back in my day we only had each other for entertainment! My Mom and Dad had a number of games they used to use to keep us occupied and make the journey seem shorter! Some of the games we played included: "I spy with my little eye something that begins with...", "I packed my bag and in it I put..." and "Name that tune...". Perhaps my favourite was "Bury all your horses...". This is a game where you find and count all the horses you see on your side of the car. The object is to see who has counted the most horses at the end of the game! One catch! If a cemetery is passed on your side and the other players see it and call out "Bury all your horses!!" you lose the count and have to start all over again. A tricky game, but a lot of fun. Judi and I play variation where you can only lose 10 horses at a time! Speaking of Judi and games, she tells me that when she and her sisters where kids they use to play board games to reduce the monotony of long drives. One game in particular that they use to play was "Clue". It seems incredible that Judi was able to win (or lose) at will!! I told how great that was until she told me that she use to mark the Clue cards and knew right from the start of the game who the murderer was, what room and with what weapon!! I don't think her sisters or parents knew until later in life! With all the long distances we drive today, we still use games to pass the time! However, I refuse to play, with Judi, anything involving cards!

Festival Tips

A few weeks ago Judi and I traveled to Keswick to visit the Rise To Rebellion Re-enactment. Getting there was a lot of fun... we got lost! This month's Festival Tip is to "Make sure you know your directions!" Here is a re-print of a blog I wrote about our adventures!

Getting There...

As I have said before, getting there can be half the fun! I hadn't been to Keswick in many years. This was where the "Rise To Rebellion" re-enactment was going to take place and Judi and I wanted to be part of it. Rather than drive the boring highways, we (I) decided to take the back roads to Keswick. In the past, any time I had traveled to Keswick I had taken Hwy. #48 from Toronto straight to Keswick, no problems! Being the "Festival Nomad", I, of course, know all the correct route to get to any Ontario festival or event!?! With this confidence, Judi and I set out for Keswick and the re-enactment. All was going well, the sun was shining and the roads were clear of traffic, so what could go wrong? Nothing until we turned from Hwy #12 onto Hwy #48. This is where I encountered my first "Brain Lapse"! I assumed (you know what that means!) that we were south of Keswick. Imagine my surprise and concern when signs started telling me that we were heading "SOUTH" to Toronto! It couldn't be! I pulled over onto the shoulder of the road and stopped the car! I took my road map out to see where we were! No help! I turned the car around and started to retrace our steps! Then I got "cold feet", I turn around again and headed "SOUTH"! One of the signs I had seen earlier had said "this way to Keswick"! I decided to trust the signs and not my brain! At each indecision, Judi just "sighed"! We continued traveling "SOUTH"! This is where my second "brain lapse" took place! I mistook "Sutton" for "Keswick". Don't ask me why, I just did! I turn down the road that said "this way to Sutton". We traveled through Sutton towards Jackson's Point. I was sure we were on the right track! When we reach Jackson' Point there was a "T" in the road. Judi suggested that we should turn left. I confidentially said "no, we should go right". We turned right, followed the road and eventually came back to Hwy #48. We had just traveled in a big (scenic!) circle! Now I was REALLY lost! Fortunately, this time I followed Judi's advice and turned right. We followed Hwy. #48, passing the "Sutton this way" sign and headed south towards Toronto. A few kilometers south of Sutton we saw a sign saying "this way to Keswick". We turned right and followed the sign's directions! We eventually came to Woodbine Avenue and another "Keswick" sign. We turned right again and this time drove straight in to downtown "Keswick". From there it was easy to find the re-enactment! It was being held at the Georgina Pioneer Village which was part of the Georgina Community Centre complex. The way to this complex is very well marked, we couldn't go wrong! The sad ending to this story for the "know-it-all Festival Nomad" is that if we had turned left in Jackson's Point, as Judi had suggested, we would have driven directly to the complex and the re-enactment. We would have arrived a half hour earlier and would have saved a quarter tank of gas! **The moral - "The Nomad isn't (sigh) always right, but his trusty side kick (Judi) is!"**

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