



# Festival Notes

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"Festival News"  
New Feature

"This new section is being design to help..."



"Ontario Festival Finder"  
New Feature

## What's New in May?

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

In the April issue of *Festival Notes*, I told you about a new section coming to the *Ontario Festivals Visited* website. The *Festival News* section was to have been up and running in April. If you have checked out our website lately, you will realize that it's not there! We wanted it to be "up and running", but due to "technical difficulties beyond our control", we delay our launch. The "difficulties" have now "almost" been fixed and I expect the launch to take place early this month. That being said, we need your help! We want to make the *Festival News* section as informative and up-to-date as possible. This is where you can help. Send us your news, both festivals and event organizers and visitors alike! The more you send, the better! Finally, after you take a look at the new section, let us know what you think... the good, the bad and the ugly! Let us know what you would like to see changed and improved!

Now we move onto our next project, the "*Ontario Festivals Finder*" section. This new section is being designed to help festival visitors find the festivals and events they want to visit, easily and efficiently! Our new festival search engine will allow visitors to tell us what type of festival they want to visit, where they want to go, when they want to attend and how much they want to spend! Eventually this section will include festival tips, festival trip planners, festival travel games and articles about interesting festivals, events and attractions. We will let you know more next month.

## And So It Begins...

This is the time we really start to anticipate the new festival and event season! We have chosen many of the events we hope to visit during the spring and summer months and can hardly wait to get started in earnest! The process has been exciting and rewarding! This year we have been approached by a number of great festivals and events asking us to come to their event. Where possible (time and other commitments preventing) we are going to try to visit all of them.

Please see *And So It Begins...* on page 2

*An So It Begins ... from page 1*

Frankly, we appreciate the festivals and events that ask us to come. Perhaps it's vanity on my part, but I strongly believe that we should help festivals and events that want and appreciate our help.

April was a fairly slow month for us. We had planned to visit more, but we eventually only attended two, the Lindsay Model Railway Show and the Durham Home Show. The Railway Show brought out my "inner child" while the Home Show made me want to improve our home! These were both fun shows to visit.

May looks like it will be quite a bit busier! Here is what we are considering:

- May 16<sup>th</sup> - Welcome Weekend at the Ameliasburg Museum
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Roseneath Spring Festival
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Beeton Honey and Garden Festival
- May 29<sup>th</sup> - Tillsonburg Ruffed Grouse Society Annual Banquet
- May 30<sup>th</sup> - Country Heritage Old Tyme Fair (Milton)

## Free Stuff!

I haven't seen too much "free stuff" at festivals lately! I guess I'm not surprised given the economy. I can remember years ago going to the Ex (Canadian National Exhibition) and bringing home lots of "free stuff". It seemed like a lot back then, but I was just a kid, so anything "free" would have looked good to me! However, the food court "goodies" was a different story, large cups of pop, candy bars and Tiny Tom donuts! Back then, that was how the food and drink companies promoted themselves. And, if they didn't give their products away for free, the price was much lower than normal! Of course, today, companies at industry shows do hand out some promotional items, but most aren't that appealing! Well, I guess I should qualify that! Judi collects pens, so anyone who offers her a "free" pen, wins her heart! I like the more interesting promotions. I guess that is why I enjoyed the "business card" I recently received at the Lindsay Model Railway Show! We were just finishing our explorations when we came to a vendor who was selling model trains and train supplies.

Please see *Free Stuff!...* on page 3



*"Model Railway"*  
Lindsay Model Railway Show

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*"... we appreciate festivals and events that ask..."*

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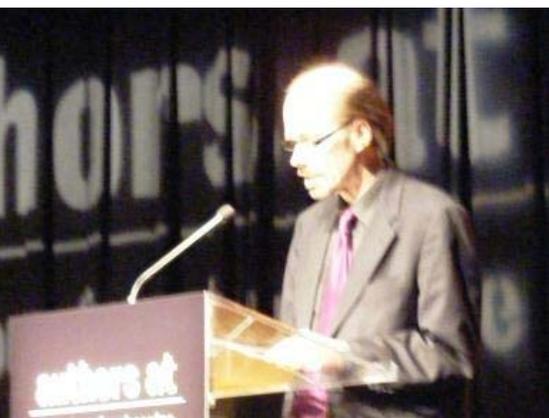
*"Canada Brokerlink Booth!"*  
Durham Home Show



*"Hobbies & Beyond"*  
At the Lindsay Model Railway Show



*"Clowning Around!"*  
Toronto International Circus Festival



*"Jeffrey Deaver reading from his latest novel!"*  
International Festival of Authors

*Free Stuff! ... from page 2*

The store was called *Hobbies and Beyond* (Website: <http://www.hobbiesandbeyond.ca>) from Lindsay. I stopped to say hello and to introduce myself. I do this when I find something interesting and I want to take their photo. We talked for a few moments and then I handed the lady my business card. In return I asked for one of hers. I need cards to remember who I talk with and to get their contact information. The lady came back with a small package sealed in a clear bag. Inside were three pieces of wood with instructions on how to put the wood together! It was a balsam wood glider! On the main wing of the glider was the store's contact information! I was hooked! I thought if this is their business card, it must be a great hobby store to visit. The next time I am in Lindsay I am going to make sure I visit it!

## Festival Ideas...

*Each month this section features ideas gained from attending so many festivals. For the May issue we want to talk about the Toronto Harbourfront Centre. This past week I wrote an article on "The Adventures of a Festival Nomad" blog about the Centre. We are republishing it for your enjoyment/information?*

### Toronto Harbourfront Centre

If you have never been to Toronto's Harbourfront Centre, you have missed a lot of fun and entertainment! I first remember visiting the harbour front area when I was a young man working for my father. My family owned a successful insurance agency (now brokerage) in Toronto and one of our commercial customers had their offices in the old "Terminal Building" (now known as the Queen's Quay Terminal). One of my assignments was to deliver papers to our customer. Although the building was built in 1926 and was used mainly as a "Cold Storage" facility, it was very impressive! It was also one of the main buildings along the waterfront! The area had yet to be developed. That came in the 1980's when the different levels of government decided it was time for change. One of the first projects was the conversion of the Terminal Building to upscale stores and condominiums. This, along with the development of the Harbourfront Centre started the harbour front "revolution"! Other condos and hotels quickly started to appear. Now the area is alive with "lots to do" and the Harbourfront Centre leads the way! So far I have visited two of their events, the Toronto International Circus Festival (with my grandson Tyler and the International Festival of Authors (with my friend Paul).

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*Festival Ideas ... from page 3*

Both were great events and I look forward to visiting many more. As a matter of fact, Judi and I are planning on visiting the Harbourfront Centre during the closing weekend (June 12-14) of Luminato. Plans are underway for spectacular closing celebrations with Cirque du Soleil creating a special presentation. This is only one of the many fantastic activities that take place all year long! Check out their website for more information. (<http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com/>)

## Festival Tips

### Festivaling with Kids (Part Two)...

Last month I started talking about going to a festival or event with your kid(s). In that article I discussed **Choosing a Festival**. This month I want to talk about preparing for your visit to the event.

#### Part Two - Preparing to Visit a Festival

How much preparation and what you need to know and do will depend on the age of your children and the type of event you are going to attend. So, many of the following ideas may or may not apply. Here is my "Kid Friendly Tips" checklist (in no particular order of importance):

- **Stroller or Wagon** - if you have a younger child or children, a stroller is a must. Carrying a tired child around a festival is not fun! For you or the child! Plus strollers can be used to carry other things, like a big stuffed panda bear you just won!
- **Meals** - most festivals offer the standard less than healthy festival fair of hotdogs, hamburgers, sausages, French fries, cotton candy, etc., plus the food can be quite expensive. If you and your family are not into that type of food, prepare a picnic lunch that the whole family can enjoy. If bringing food is not an option, check out the areas for family restaurant before you enter the festival grounds.
- **Water** - bring bottled water (in a reusable bottle) is important in the hot summer months. Becoming dehydrated is not fun and can be dangerous to yours and your children's health.
- **Snacks** - Many times you may have to wait for an event to start or your lunch is delayed. Having a few healthy snacks available will keep the children "at bay" and save you a ton of money!
- **Entertainment** - Again, since there may be some periods of waiting between events, bringing a few toys for entertainment purposes might ward off some of the boredom. What you bring will depend on the interests of your child.
- **Comfort** - If you are going to a parade or an event where you will be sitting for a while, you might want to bring a cushion or folding chairs. A blanket would also be useful, either for warmth or for covering the ground. Bringing an extra empty fold up bag might come in handy to carry purchases or winnings.
- **Extra Clothing** - Packing extra clothing or layering is always a good idea. Accidents happen and changes of clothing are needed. The younger the child the more likely the "accident". Also, weather can change in an instant. Cold weather can become warm. Warm weather to cold and sunshine into rain. I have learned this through bitter experience.
- **Sun** - Bring along sun protection, hats, sun block, sun glassed, lip cream, etc. even if it's a cloudy day. Sun created illnesses are not fun and can be very dangerous!
- **First Aid** - You might want to take a small first aid kit with you, Band-Aids, Gravel, aspirin, Lysol wipes, etc.
- **Festival/Events Information** - If the festival's website has a site map or a schedule of event or list of activities, you should print it off and bring it with you. (To be continued - see the June issue for Part Three, **Being There**)

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