



Festival Notes

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“Other smaller projects will follow...”



*“Re-enactors Camping Out”
Welcome Weekend
at the
Ameliasburg Museum*

Where Do We Go From Here?

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

Festival News is now up and running! It has been quite an adventure and learning experience, but isn't that what life is all about? I am pleased with the end result and hope that it will help keep visitors to our website well informed. For festival organizers who want to have their news published on our site, there is a “**News Submission Form**” now available on both the main *Ontario Festivals Visited* website and on the *Festival News* section.

The other project that I have mentioned in previous newsletters is the NEW *Ontario Festival Finder* search engine. Judi is busy collecting information about Ontario festivals and events and is inputting them onto a data sheet. The custom search engine programming is in the process of being completed and I hope to have this new feature fully operational by mid-July. As with the *Festival News*, there is a “**Festival Information Submission Form**” available for festival organizers to send us detailed information about their event.

These are and have been our two largest projects since the development of our original website, so I will be happy once they both have been completed! Other smaller projects will follow as the year progresses. Stay tuned!

In the Good Old Summer Time...

Summer officially arrives in a few weeks, but it feels like we have already entered the “festival summer” rush! Our visits started in mid-May and it doesn't look like they will stop until early October! This is a good and bad situation. It's good that there are so many great Ontario festivals and events to visit, but it's bad that there are only 24 hours in a day! Writing the articles for each event and processing the photos and videos takes a lot of thought and time. Fortunately I love the challenge! Our first event in May was the **Welcome Weekend** at the **Ameliasburg Museum**. This was the first event for many of Ontario's re-enactors. On the next Saturday we traveled the short distance north to Roseneath for their first annual **Roseneath Spring Festival**. The **Northumberland Wood Carvers Show** participated in the new festival. They had moved from their traditional date in February.

Please see *In the Good Old Summer Time...* on page 2

In the Good Old Summer Time ... from page 1

On the same Saturday, we headed northeast to Beeton for the **Beeton Honey and Garden Show**. This was a well run event and much larger than we expected! Our last event in May was the **Country Heritage Old Tyme Fair** held at the Country Heritage Park in Milton. This is an amazing heritage park with lots to see and do.

As I look at our **June** event calendar, I see an adventure packed month! Here are the events we hope to visit:

June 7th - World's Longest Street Festival (Aurora)

June 13th - Luminato at the Toronto Harbourfront Centre (closing weekend festivities)

June 14th - Hamilton International Tattoo

June 20th - Mississauga Waterfront Festival

June 20th - Burlington's Sound of Music Festival

June 27th - Canadian Redneck Games (Harriston)

Special Article... Special Event

It has been designated as one of Ontario's "Top 100 Festivals" by FEO (Festivals and Events Ontario)! It has won numerous awards of excellence! And, it is one of the top 5 festivals that Judi and I have visited! I am talking about the **Mississauga Waterfront Festival**! You can read my original 2007 article on the **Ontario Festivals Visited** website. The reason Judi and I enjoyed the Festival so much was that it was fun and interesting and, we didn't want to leave! There so many great activities available to see, that it was difficult to know where to begin! We started at the petting zoo, moved to McCann Dogs and then to the Mississauga Future Stars contest. The activities were non-stop and they were well timed. Talk about getting your monies worth! Then there were the trampoline demonstration, the Ojibway story teller, the Ojibway dancers, Barney, Jungle Cat World and their exotic animals and the Jet Ski stunt show and more! There was even a large midway! According to Festival Event/Artistic Manager, Patti Jannetta-Baker, this year's **Mississauga Waterfront Festival** will even be better (hard to imagine)!

And, of course, there will be this year's Mississauga Future Star Contest!



"Garden Frogs"
Beeton Honey and Garden Festival

Here are some (and I mean some) of the awesome shows and activities that await this year's Mississauga Waterfront Festival visitors!

On the Main Stage

MWF Fridayfest

- Sam Roberts Band
- Kathleen Edwards
- Low Level Flight
- Justin Nozuka

Saturday

- 54-40
- Skydiggers
- The Spoons

Sunday

- Bruce Cockburn
- Mark Seymour
- Catherine MacLellan

For the Kids and their Family

- The Backyardigans
- Dora the Explorer
- Birds of Prey
- Wonderful World of Circus
- Free Style Soccer

On the Water

- SWS Water Ski Show
- SWYWYS Jetski Stunt Show

You can check out all the activities and times at the **Mississauga Waterfront Festival** website.

By the way, parking is **NO PROBLEM**. They have a **FREE** Shuttle Bus service. See the website for details.



"What should I paint next?"
Susan Caron



"Beethoven on Ice"
Acrylic Painting by Susan Caron

Artist's Series – Susan Caron

This is the ninth in a series about Canadian artists I have known, and worked with.

Susan Caron's artistic talents run in her family! Her Father was a graphic artist. Her mother was a gifted crafter as is her older sister. Her younger sister, actually her twin, is also a talented artist. As a matter of fact, I know her sister intimately! No, I am not having an affair! Sue and my Judi are twin sisters! Sue has dabbled in art for years. She initially started out creating architectural pencil sketches. From there she graduated to watercolours, mainly of local buildings. Then, a few years ago she was involved in an industrial accident that crushed her hand. After a long period of rehabilitation and absence from painting, she re-emerged. She had retrained herself to use her other hand and, her art was different! She had started painting with acrylics. Her art wasn't as ridged as it had been before the accident. It now had flare, imagination and passion, and, she is now experimenting! One of her latest creations is of a line of music, the first few notes of Beethoven's 5th Symphony. On top of the stretched canvas and the painting, Sue has added blocks of clear glue. The effect is amazing! She calls the painting "*Beethoven on Ice*"! In addition to painting, Sue has become more active in showing her works. This summer she will be participating in several shows. First is her "one artist" show at *Munro's Downtown* (Cobourg) on June 18th. Then she is one of a number of artists participating in the "*Art de Triomphe*" Canada Day Show. This is the 2nd annual show and will be held at *Meet at 66 King St. East* (Cobourg). Her final summer show will be held for the entire month of August at the *Ganaraska Art Gallery* (Port Hope). Sue's new website, *Jazz Art* (www.jazzart.ca), is being developed and should be ready for visitors shortly. The new website reflects her latest images, a series of whimsical and stylized Jazz images. Many of them are on permanent display and are for sale at *Munro's Downtown*. You can find out more about **Susan Caron** by visiting one of the above art shows or logging onto her new website (available mid-June).

Festival Ideas...

Each month this section features ideas gained from attending so many festivals. For the June issue we want to talk about the "The Way of the Future..." A few weeks ago, I wrote an article on "Gary's Blog" about the future of festival and events. We are republishing it for your enjoyment/information?

The Way of the Future...

I, and others, have spoken about it before, but I believe that it needs to be re-mentioned! With the economy as low as it is, more families will be staying close to home this summer.



"Old Fashion Service Centre"
Country Heritage Old Tyme Fair

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That being said, festivals and events will have to become more “**kid and family friendly**”. The challenge will be that more festivals and events will be competing for the same dollars! As a result, organizers will have to become more innovative! The days of status quo are over. No longer will organizers be able to rely on the “**tried and true**”. Yes, some of them will work, but which one? Offering the same thing that everyone else does won’t “**cut it**” any more! New ideas will have to surface! That’s why, for me, it was refreshing to meet Whitney Smith and the Suitcase Theatre. A number of weeks ago I had the opportunity to see a Suitcase Theatre “**Puppet Musical**” play based on the poem, “*The House That Jack Built*”. (You can read my **Ontario Festivals Visited** article on our website. It was an original production with new music written by Whitney. I must admit that I was a bit “**nervous**” about it being a play for “**children**”! However, I was pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed the play. Perhaps it was my “**inner child**” coming through. Whatever it was, I enjoyed it and I know that adults in the audience did too! Whitney and his Suitcase Theatre Company are now offering this play and others to organizers of festivals and events located in southern Ontario. This is a perfect alternative “**innovative**” attraction! I hope, as Judi and I travel from event to event, that we see more of the **Suitcase Theatre** group’s productions!

Festival Tips

Festivaling with Kids (Part Three)...

You have now arrived at your festival or event. How do you stay sane and enjoy yourselves? Good question, so here are a few suggestions that I hope will help!

- **Parking** - With many festivals or events parking can be a problem. Thankfully a lot of larger festivals have off sight parking and a shuttle service. I would encourage you to take advantage of this service. The other alternative is to arrive at the event before it actually opens. By doing this you will likely find a good parking spot.
- **Boredom** - Since kids generally get bored fairly easily, a little preliminary planning goes a long way! This goes for the trip to the festival and the wait time before some events. Bringing portable games, such as a game boy, cards, a colouring book or a ball, can help kids pass the time and keep them from become too bored.
- **Site Planning** - Unfortunately many festivals don’t have great site maps or event schedules on their website, so some or all of your planning will have to take place at the event itself. What to look for? First, I think, where are the washrooms located? (A good suggestion for youngsters and “oldsters”!) Next find out where all the “kid’s” events and activities are taking place. Determine which of the events is “time sensitive” and which ones you and your family want to see. This way you can plan to leave enough time to arrive at each event early. Like the parking, getting to an event early will usually mean good seating. This will likely mean some “wait time”, but you have already thought of that (see above) because you have brought along something to keep the kids occupied!
- **Emergency Plan** - Having an emergency plan in place is important. Once you get to the festival you should have a predetermined meeting spot in case you get separated. Everyone should know where it’s located and what the timing should be if separation occurs. In the case of younger children, a cellular phone number should be sewn or pinned to the youngsters clothing. This way if they get lost, someone can reach you by telephone. (Make sure you bring the phone with you!)

I am sure that there is a lot more that could be thought of. If you can think of any more suggestions, please add a comment. Happy festivaling!

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