



Festival Notes

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 How Was Your Summer?
- 1 "Did You Ever Have One of Those...?"
- 3 A Month of Fall Fairs
- 3 Festival Ideas – *Making the Most...*
- 4 Festival Tips – *How Not to Pack!*

How Was Your Summer?

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

I've heard a number of people refer to this past summer as being "awful"! I guess it's all in the eye of the beholder! Frankly, Judi and I thought it was a great summer! The weather stayed fair enough that we were able to visit most the festivals and events that we planned to. Yes, there was some rain, but was normally short lived. The other nice thing about the weather for us was that it was not too hot. I know that some of you might think that this is a negative, but when you are walking through an outside event, cooler temperatures are more than welcome! That being said, this was a summer season of wonderful festivals and events. In the early summer, June, we visited several terrific music events. The first was Welland's *IlluminAqua*; it was followed quickly by the *Canadian International Military Tattoo* in Hamilton and a week later, the *Burlington Sound of Music Festival*. At the end of the month I drove to Harriston for the *Canadian Red Neck Games*! On the first day of July, *Canada Day*, we visited 4 different community celebrations, Brighton, Warkworth, Campbellford and Hastings. That started of a month of traveling... Brockville for *Riverfest*, Prescott for the *St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival*, Smiths Falls for the *Canal, Railway and Chocolate Festival* and finally, Wasaga Beach for the *Siege of Wasaga*. August's events were very diverse. There was the *Mill Race (Folk) Festival* in Cambridge/Galt, the *Festival of Textiles* at Lang Pioneer Village, the *Buckhorn Fine Art Festival*, *Harvest Fest* at Fanshawe Pioneer Village, the *Toronto Zoo's 35th Anniversary Celebration* and towards the end of the month, the *Bobcaygeon Wine and Food Festival*.



Welland's IlluminAqua



Smiths Falls
Canal, Railway and Chocolate
Festival

Please see *How Was Your Summer?...* on page 2

"Did You Ever Have One of Those...?"

It all started out at the beginning of the month! I was in a Tim Hortons parking lot, driving very slowly, when a "large" pick-up truck with a "huge" tow hitch backed into me! I got out of the car to check the damage and found a gapping hole in the rare passenger's side quarter panel! The truck's driver was apologetic, but the damage had been done! This tied my car up for several days while the damage was being repaired!

Please see *Did You Ever...* on page 2

How Was Your Summer? ... from page 1

Along the way we were treated to great music, delicious food, full bodied wine and lots of fun! We met wonderful people at all the events we visited. Each time they treated us with kindness and respect. We even participated as models in the period fashion show at Lang Pioneer Village's Festival of Textiles. The greatest honor, however, was at the Canal, Railway and Chocolate Festival in Smiths Falls. Chairman Jim McPherson surprised us by presenting us with a wonderful framed print depicting Smiths Fall. The original painting was by artist **John Cullen**. The painting now proudly hangs in my office and reminds me each day of Smiths Falls and its amazing citizens! Needless to say, we had a GREAT summer!

Did You Ever ... from page 1

In the middle of the month the hard drive on my computer died! The good news is that I had back up my computer recently. The bad news is that I was without the use of my computer for almost two weeks! If you have ever had to replace a hard drive you will know it's not just a matter of turning on your computer and your back up and running. You may have saved your information, but not your programs! EVERYTHING has to be re-installed! So, if you have misplaced disks or put them in that *"perfect place where you know where to find them when you need them!"*, you will know what a "pain" it is to re-construct your computer! I am still working on bringing my computer back to "life"! As you know, challenges (NOTE: I am calling them *"challenges"* instead of *"problems"* ... I'm a positive type of guy!) usually come in threes, so I was waiting for the "other shoe to drop"! It did, near the end of the month! Judi had had a small tooth ache that finally turned into a **"BIG"** tooth ache! She tried to *"tough"* it out but finally the pain became too intense. She called her dentist for an appointment expecting a couple of fillings. She came out of the dentist's office with TWO teeth pulled! To top things off, the pain continued for over a week! Talk about your bad month! As a result we didn't get to as many events as we had planned. In fact, we only made it to two, the Kingston Fall Fair and Dine and Shine at Lang Pioneer Village. To those events we apologize. We will try again next year.

October looks much better, so we should be able to make up for September's lost visits.

October 3rd - Toronto Argonauts Game - CFL Football

October 4th - Applefest at Lang Pioneer Village

October 10th - Norwood Fall Fair

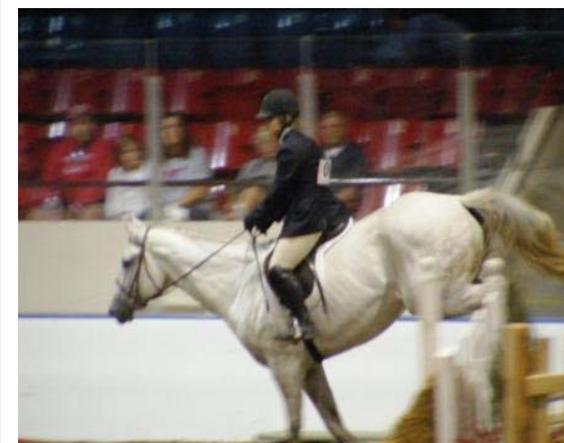
October 17th - Fright Night at Fort Henry

October 24th - Amish Tour (possible)



Fanshawe Pioneer Village's
Harvest Fest

*"...Smiths Falls and its
amazing citizens!"*



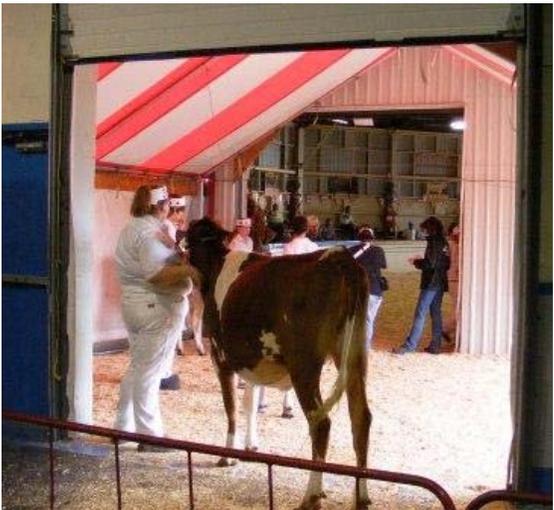
"Horse Jumping"
Kingston Fall Fair



"Steak Cook Off"
Dine and Shine
Lang Pioneer Village



"Judi and the big Pumpkin!"
Rockton World's Fair



"Waiting to be judged"
Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show



"Cooking corn on the open fire!"
Pioneer Fall Fair
Scugog Shores Museum

A Month of Fall Fairs

October is the month of freshly harvested produce, autumn colours and fall fairs! One of the best fairs is coming up soon. The Rockton World's Fair will be held on October 9-12, 2009! The fair was originally known as the Beverly Agricultural Society Fair. Back then the prize money was a whopping \$194.50! Since then the fair has grown and changed and so has its name. So how did it become the "World's Fair"? The story, according to the fair's website goes something like this, "In 1878 Andrew Kernighan commented that the fair should be called the "World's Fair" because all of the world comes to it. The next day local newspapers carried an article about the fair entitled "The World's Fair at Rockton". In 1966 the fair officially became the Rockton World's Fair. It may not be a "World's Fair" as we have come to know them, but is certainly a "world class fair"! The fair now has 500 volunteer members, 1,200 exhibitors and \$80,000 in prize money and it hosts over 100,000 visitors! This year's fair looks bigger and better than ever! From the calf judging to the horse jumping and from The Gathering Place to The Meeting Place, the Rockton World's Fair has everything a family would want and expect from a Fall Fair! Take a ride back in time and find out why the Rockton World's Fair is a "world class fair"! Check out their website at

<http://www.rocktonworldsfair.com/index.htm>.

Festival Ideas...

Making the Most...

Sometimes you may go to an event that does not meet your expectations. What do you do? Do you turn around and go home or do you make the most of it? Judi and I feel that you should stay and try to "make the most of it". Who knows, you might just be surprised! There may be something you missed at first look, an exciting ride, an interesting exhibit or, perhaps a later event. Having an open mind and looking a little harder may reveal a real "gem". The big thing is to find a schedule of events or to approach an event organizer to find out what "things of interest" are happening later in the day. If after checking things out there is still nothing of interest, don't let the disappointment ruin your entire outing! Look for other forms of entertainment.

Here are a few ideas.

- * See if there is a fun park close by or an interesting attraction close by and then check it out
- * Try taking a unique route home, one that you haven't traveled before. There may be interesting towns and landscapes along the way.
- * Stop along the way and visit unique and fun shops

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



"A Fashionable wagon ride"
Festival of Textiles
Lang Pioneer Village

Festival Ideas... from page 3

* **Depending** on the time of year and the region you are traveling, there may be other things to interest you. For example, if you are traveling in the Niagara region or Prince Edward County there are lots of vineyards to explore. If you are in the Kitchener-Waterloo area, there are many beautiful farms and quaint hamlets to investigate

* **If you've planned** ahead like Judi and I do, you will have packed a picnic lunch. Find a scenic place to stop, relax and eat. If you have also packed some games for the kids, this would be a good time and place for them to "blow off steam" and have some fun

* **Make arrangements** to visit friends or family along the way back home

Some of the ideas outlined above may take a little pre-planning, but I think you will be glad that you took my advice! It's not that you are looking for a "bad" festival or event. It's just that you are aware of the possibility! Whatever you decide to do, make the most of your day!

Festival Tips

How Not to Pack!

In order to save on the cost of going to festivals and events and to eat healthier meals, Judi has been making and packing picnic lunches for us to take to the festivals and events we visit! We've been doing this since the beginning of August and it's been going very well, until now! Each time Judi carefully thinks through what we are going to eat and what she needs to pack. She includes such things as forks, knives, spoons, salt, napkins, etc., all of this along with our food and beverages. To preserve the food in the hot weather and to keep our drinks cool, we have a thermal lined picnic bag. As I said, all was well until last week! Judi prepared and packed the food as usual. Our recyclable water bottles were freshly filled and also packed. We loaded everything into our car and then headed for our destination! We were going to visit the event in the morning and then head to Wellington to visit my brother Chuck and his wife, Flo. After the festival visit we went back to the car, ready to have our picnic lunch. We wanted to eat before we headed out to Chuck and Flo's. Judi opened the thermal bag and let out a loud scream and then a low moan! This was followed by a few well chosen words! I can't repeat them here! The bottom of the bag was completely filled with **WATER!** We had just purchased new water bottles and had not tested them out! The contents of the water bottles had leaked! Everything was soaked and the water bottles were empty! Even though the sandwiches had been carefully wrapped, the water had managed to seep in! They were just nicely soggy! I was hungry and needed to eat, so I sucked in a big breath and bit into the soggy sandwich! Needless to say, the lunch was not quite what we had in mind when we started out that morning! So, here is my **FESTIVAL NOMAD** advice for the day... *"Check out your new water bottles for leaks BEFORE you pack them with your lunch!"* Also, take your mother's advice, *"Never eat a soggy sandwich!"*

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