



ONTARIO

Festivals Visited

Festival

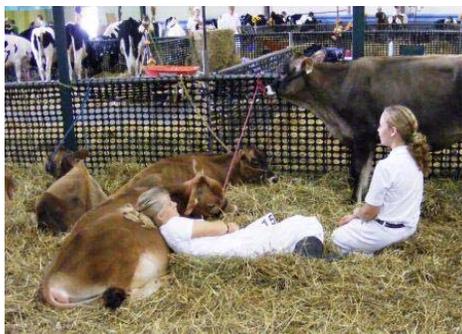
Notes

February/March 2010
Volume 3 Issues 3/4

Ontario Festivals Visited, P.O. Box 272, Cobourg, ON, K9A 4K8, Canada
www.ontariofestivalsvisited.ca info@ontariofestivalsvisited.ca (888) 818-0255

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 I'm Back!
- 1 Point of View...
- 2 Incredible Dad...
- 4 Festival Ideas – *Festival Correspondents WANTED!*
- 4 Festival Tips – *How Not to Pack!*



"Relaxing"
Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show



"In Fashion!"
Festival of Textiles
at Lang Pioneer Village

I'm Back!

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

First, let me apologize for not publishing a newsletter last month. I have a good reason which I will explain shortly. Sufficient to say I missed communicating with you and hopefully it won't happen again. For this issue I am combining the February and March issues together.

Now for my "good" reason! Several months ago Judi and I decided to try to "get healthy" by walking. We were able to start modestly and eventually increased our walking distance to a little less than 4 miles. We did this most days. Because I had had heart troubles in the past, my doctor suggested that I take a "stress test" at our local hospital. An appointment was made and the stress test was completed. The test was a "Nuclear Stress Test". This combines walking on a treadmill and having a full body x-ray with dye.

Please see *I'm Back!...* on page 2

Point of View...

Over the past month or so, Judi and I have been talking about what we would like to experience in the upcoming year. In doing this we talked about the past festivals and events we had visited. Here are some of Judi's most memorable experiences. Hopefully this will help you in your festival and event visit planning.

FN: What was your favourite festival or event?

JMcW: *"Growing up my favorite time of the year was the fall. This is when I got to go to the Caledonia Fall Fair with my grandmother. It had it all, horses, buggies, wagons, farm animals, hand pulled taffy, fresh baked pie, harvest produce, craft competitions, bumper cars, mid-way and music. I remember all the crisp cool sunny days enjoying the sights and sounds. It wasn't until I was an adult that those fond memories were recaptured, and then some, at the Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show. It was by far the best fall fair I've even been to. It had all that I remembered and then more!"*

FN: Was there any activity at one of the festivals or events that stands out?

JMcW: *"One of my favorite places to visit is the Lang Pioneer Village in Keene, Ontario. Although the village itself is one of the best in Ontario and is a full day of enjoyment to visit on any given day, the village has many unique special events throughout the year."*

Please see *Point of View...* on page 3

I'm Back! ... from page 1

A few weeks after the test, I met with my "Internist". I was confident that everything was okay. Much to my surprise he said that he was concerned about some potential artery blockages. He suggested that I have an "Angiogram" performed. He immediately made an appointment at the Kingston Hospital.

Two weeks later I was at the Hospital having an angiogram. This is where they insert a miniature camera into your arteries to check for potential blockages. As with the stress test, I was confident that I had no serious problems. I thought the worst they could do was to insert a "stint" to open any blockage. I had had two previously. At the end of the procedure the doctor told me that he had found a couple of dangerous blockages and that he was recommending "Open Heart By-Pass" surgery! I felt stunned! I couldn't believe what I was hearing! I felt fine! I knew I was healthy! There must be a mistake! The truth was I wasn't fine and I did need the operation! The angiogram took place last November. My "Triple By-Pass" surgery took place mid January (Happy New Year!) Amazingly I was in the hospital for only four days! The doctors feel that patients recover faster at home. Since returning home I have been recovering from my operation. Each day I progress a little further. I am starting to feel my old (*improved*) self and I am almost ready to start visiting and writing about Ontario's fantastic festivals and events. It's GREAT to be back!

Incredible Dad...

A little while ago I discovered a great new website call "Incredible Dad". It's actually created and managed by a friend of mine. That's my disclosure! However, it is so clever that I thought I would tell you about it. Although it doesn't actually fall under the category of "festivals and events", it does deal with kids and parenting, so what could be more "festivalish" (new word) then that? Okay that may be a bit of a stretch, but it's still a great website and one that I think you should take a look at. This is especially true if you have children or grandchildren of your own. The "Incredible Dad" takes a common sense, fun approach in dealing with kids and their problems or, as my Dad use to say, their "challenges"! Take the Incredible Dad's "Dad Tips" as an example. One of the "tips" is "Top Ways to Store Your Kid's Art and the Funny Things They Say". In this tip the Incredible Dad shows you how to easily store you kid's arts and crafts plus he gives some great ideas on how to preserve some of the precious things your kid's say! Another tip, "Top 5 Ways to Get Your Kids to Eat Broccoli" talks about fun ways to make the "challenges" of eating Broccoli "enjoyable"!

Please see *Incredible Dad...* on page 3



"Judi with Dave Devall!"
Bobcaygeon Wine & Food Festival



"At Work!"
Kingston Sheep Dog Trails



[Incredible Dad Website](#)



"Arts and Crafts Area"
Winona Peach Festival

Incredible Dad ... from page 2

Heck, I might even eat some Broccoli myself! The Incredible Dad's range of topics include "*Dad Tips*", "*Fun Tips*", "*Restaurant Reviews*", "*Vacation Reviews*", "*Activities Tips*", "*Instant Expert*" and "*Book Reviews*". These are all from the perspective of kids! As I said, this is a new website, but one with huge potential. I think it could become the standard for "*common sense and fun parenting*". Who knows, perhaps some day the Incredible Dad will take his kids to one of Ontario's fabulous festivals or events and tell us all about it, from his kids' point of view! Check out the Incredible Dad website at <http://incredibledad.com/>.

Point of View ... from page 1

We have enjoyed many, such as their Fur Trade Re-Enactment, Dine & Shine, Christmas by Candlelight, Applefest (which I volunteered my time to help raise funds for their new "Weavers Building"). The event I enjoyed the most was the Festival of Textiles held this past summer. Both Gary and I had the privilege of dressing in period costumes and participating in the fashion show portion of the event. I was amazed at the professionalism and organization of this event. Somehow, on a very hot day, 44 volunteers partook in a very professional show. It was only one part of an interesting, exciting and fun weekend. In all, we were treated like royalty. It was nerve-racking and exhausting but most rewarding!"

FN: I know that you've met a lot of great people during your visits, who was your favourite?

JMcW: *"You're right, over the years I have had the privilege of meeting many wonderful, kind, generous people who have welcomed us to their festivals and events... from the organizers to the volunteers and participants (performers and vendors alike). We have also had the opportunity to meet many celebrities, distinguished politicians, T.V. personalities, authors and more. However, the most memorable and exciting for me was meeting Mr. Dave Devall, the longtime weatherman at CTV. Dave was acting as the MC at the Bobcaygeon Wine and Food Festival which was held this past summer at the Kawartha's Settlers Village. My parents had admired Mr. Devall for many years and I continued watching him throughout my adulthood. I never imagined I would ever meet him in person. At the event I had a chance to introduce myself. He is so personable, kind, charming, he even called me "kiddo" and pulled on my Ontario Festivals Visited ball cap. With thousands of people he meets it was amazing to me that he took the time to make me feel special. Great job and thanks Dave!"*

FN: What was your most humorous moment?

JMcW: *"It was at the Kingston Sheep Dog Trials. This was a brand new experience for me. The event was well organized and attended. There were plenty of sheep in the fields and it was amazing to watch the dogs working the sheep and the trainers/handlers working the dogs. However, what was extremely humorous to me, though, was the fare being offered at the food booths. It was a "sheep" dog trial and they were serving "Lamburgers" for lunch...the irony of it... I wonder if the sheep knew what lay ahead?"*

FN: What surprised you the most?

JMcW: *"Although a "Peach" festival sounded great just by the name... the Winona Peach Festival was by far the most surprising festival I have visited! It certainly surpassed my expectations and anticipations. The fruit vendors were plentiful, as expected. I was, however, very surprised and pleased at how well organized the festival was and how many activities there were. The physical setting was spectacular. The artist/crafters/vendors were scattered through a beautiful forest. There was even a midway and antique car show. The food vendors offered a huge selection of "Peach" treats and delights to enjoy! There were plenty of peach items such as fresh peaches and ice cream, peach pie and peach cobbler, all homemade! The foods sold were by local volunteer groups raising funds for good causes. They even had a great covered picnic area to enjoy the treats, "yum-yum!"*

Festival Ideas...

Festival Correspondents WANTED!

There are some 5,000 festival and events in Ontario. Judi and I have visited about 45 events per year over the last three years. While this is large number of events for us to cover, it's not enough to satisfy our desire to cover and write about as many Ontario's festivals and events as possible. That is why we have developed our "*Festival Correspondents Program*". So now we are seeking individuals and couples to join our "*Festival Correspondents Team*". "*What's involved*", you ask? It's simple, all you have to do is to choose a festival or event you are interested in visiting and let the "*old*" Festival Nomad (me) know which one you want to visit! Once you've made your choice, we will contact the event's organizers and let them know that you are coming. Where possible we will arrange for media credentials. After you have finished your visit you will provide us with your report on the event plus any digital photos you have taken. Yes, we want digital photos to enhance the festival's article and the more, the better. Judi and I usually take a hundred or so photos per event we visit. This allows us to choose the best photos possible. From there, Judi and I will do the rest. We will your publish your article (with photos) and you will get full credit! Your name "*in lights*" so to speak! You'll be a "*Festival Insider*" with the opportunity to tell others about your festival experiences! It's all fun and simple. Heck, we'll even give you your own "*Ontario Festivals Visited*" baseball caps! If you'd like to find out more about joining our "*Festival Correspondents Team*", call the Festival Nomad (Gary McWilliams) at 1-888-818-0255 or e-mail him at gary@ontariofestivalsvisited.ca.

Festival Tips

Should I Tell You?

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 eat, so I suck 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!*"

Ontario Festivals Visited
P.O. Box 272
Cobourg, ON K9A 4K8 CANADA
Phone/Fax:
1-888-818-0255
E-mail: info@ontariofestivalvisited.ca