



ONTARIO

Festivals Visited

Festival

Notes

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

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Young at Heart!

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

Now that I am on the road to recovery, I am always looking for unique places to walk. When I heard that my nephew, Zack, was participating in a re-enactment demonstration for area 7th graders in a local nature park, I decided to take advantage of two loves, walking (yes, I'm converted) and re-enactments. The park is a wonderful place to walk and take in the beauty of nature and there is a field large enough to accommodate a battle re-enactment and several hundred enthusiastic school children!

The re-enactment demonstration with work shops was organized by area teachers. One of Zack's teachers, Chris Robins is an active and avid re-enactor and belongs to a local re-enactment group. Chris and his fellow re-enactors plus a group of interested high school students made up the re-enactment contingent. When Judi and I arrived at the park, student work shops were just concluding and the "*Battle re-enactment*" was about to begin. Once Mr. Robins had briefed the audience on how the Battle would take place, participants dispersed to their pre-arranged positions. The Battle started slowly with American scouts reconnoitering the Battle area.

Please see *Young at Heart!* on page 2

Festival Nomad's Report...

This report has been written to inform you of past and future Festival Nomad activities.

May: At the beginning of the month we experienced our first "*Festival Nomad Correspondent's*" article. **Anne Brooks** of Fanshawe Pioneer Village (London) visited the "*Battle of Longwoods*", which is held each May near London. Anne's article along with photos of the event will be published on the **Ontario Festivals Visited** website shortly. Thanks, Anne, for your efforts. Although Judi and I didn't visit a lot of events this month, we did manage to meet with a number of interesting people, people involved with festivals and events. Our first "event" was witnessing our nephew, Zack's, "Battle re-enactment" that was described in our first article. In mid-May we traveled to Bracebridge to visit with **Randy Potts**, owner, captain and restorer of two boats belonging to his company, **Sunset Cruises**. Captain Potts boats, the *H. V. Idyllwood* and the *H. V. Peerless II* will cruise the Muskoka Lakes this spring, summer and fall.

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"Briefing the Students"
Cobourg Teacher, Chris Robins
Cobourg Youth Re-enactment

Young at Heart! ... from page 1

Once the scouts were discovered, the Battle started in earnest. Rifles were fired and smoke filled the air. Soldiers from each side moved forward and then fell back. As shots rang out several soldiers fell dramatically to their *"death"*! At first the *"Americans"* were winning the day, but then the *"British/Canadians"* fought back with vengeance and pushed back the invading force. It was then that the *"secret weapon"*, a canon, came onto the Battlefield. Its BOOM exploded and *"American"* combatants started to fall. One shot in particular seemed to *"kill"* several uniformed soldiers! This signaled the end of the Battle with the *"British/Canadians"* victorious! The students watching the Battle were amazed and cheered at the final outcome!

I must say that it was heartening to see so many of our children participating in this *"Living History"*! My congratulations to all those who organized and participated. With the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 coming up in two years, it's wonderful to see so many people becoming involved in Canada's past. We have such a rich history and it's important to keep those memories and values alive in our young people! This is not the only event that Zack and his fellow re-enactors are involved in this year. At the end of May, Cobourg's Victoria Hall celebrated its 150th anniversary. There were plenty of activities to help commemorate this hallmark. One of the activities was a parade up the main street with a stop in front of the town hall (Victoria Hall). The re-enactors participated and were viewed by Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, David Onley. Zack and his troop were honoured! Their next two adventures take place in July. One day at the Cobourg Waterfront Festival for demonstrations along the beach and one day at Lang Pioneer Village (Keene) for a *"Battle re-enactment"* with another group of re-enactors.

After the *"Battle"*, Judi and I started our walk in the park. It was peaceful now that the *"soldiers"* had left the field, although we could hear the voices of the students commenting on what they had just witnessed. Judi and I too talk about this re-enactment and others we had seen, and we talked about the upcoming celebrations that would start taking place in 2012. With my health quickly returning through healthy eating, weight loss and plenty of exercise, Judi and I look forward to visiting as many War of 1812 Celebration events as possible. After all, being *"Young at Heart"* is much more than just a *"State of Mind"*!



"Canon Power"
Cobourg Youth Re-enactment



"The Final Salute"
Battle of Longwoods



"Waiting for Inspection"
150th Anniversary Celebrations
Cobourg's Victoria Hall



"Talking with Captain Randy Potts on the Peerless II"
H.V. Peerless II - Sunset Cruises



"David Brunelle"
Wasaga Under Siege

Festival Nomad's Report... from page 2

I have written about Randy before about his cruise boat the *Idyllwood*. This time we visited Randy to find out more about his current project, the restoration of the *Peerless II*. We will be devoting a number of articles to Randy and this project over the next few weeks. To say that Judi and I were impressed with Randy and his accomplishments would be an understatement. Stay tuned to find out more! After Bracebridge, we traveled south to Orillia. Here we met with **John Bleasby**, one of the organizers of the long running (50 years) **Mariposa Folk Festival**. John told us about the upcoming festival (July) and its plans for 2010, very impressive! It is definitely a "*must visit*" event (July 9-11). Also in Orillia, we met with **David Brunelle**, Project Director of the **Southern Georgian Bay War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee**. Having a strong interest in these Celebration events, we asked Dave to meet with us to give us an idea of what was planned for 2012 and on. I plan on writing a lot more about this subject over the next several months. Dave also filled us in on other current projects he is working on. They include working with the Cities of Barrie and Orangeville with their re-enactment projects. In addition, Dave is organizing two major re-enactment events, the **Wasaga Under Siege** (July) held in Wasaga Beach and the **Nine Mile Portage Heritage Festival** (September) held in and near Barrie. David is a very busy man and we really appreciate the time he spent with us. The final event we visited in May (with Judi's sister, Carol) was the **Schomberg Spring Fair**. Schomberg is a quaint historic village located north of Toronto. The fair certainly reflected the character of the village.

June: June is shaping up to be a very busy month! Here are some of the festivals and events we are considering this month.

June 3-6 - Brooklin Spring Fair

June 4-6 - Pickering Ribfest

June 4-6 - Brantford Hockeyfest Music Festival

June 6 - Aurora Chamber Street Festival

June 11-13 - International Dragon Boat Festival (Peterborough)

June 12-13 - Canadian International Military Tattoo (Hamilton)

June 12-13 - Windfall Ecology Festival (Newmarket)

June 17-20 - Fiddlers on the Trent (Frankford)

June 17-20 - Burlington Sound of Music Festival

June 18 - IlluminAqua - David Francey (Welland)

June 18-20 - Stirling Truck Show

June 18-20 - Prescott Harbour Days

June 20 - Father's Day Smoke & Steam Show (Lang Pioneer Village)

June 23-July 5 - Hosta Fest (Gardens Plus - Peterborough)

June 26 - Customer Appreciation Day at Bayside Boutique (Buckhorn)

June 26 - Worldshift Symposium (Bancroft)

June 27-July 4 - Grail Lady Faire

July 1-4 - Cobourg Waterfront Festival (Susan Caron's Art)

Just Keep Talking!

A few nights ago I received a phone call from my friend, Jim MacPherson. Jim is one of the main organizers of the Canal, Railway & Chocolate Festival in Smiths Falls. He called to tell me about an interesting offer he had received about funding for his event. This is not unusual for Jim because he is very creative when it comes to obtaining funding and donations. His approach is very simple, "*Just Keep Talking!*" Jim's philosophy is that if you talk enthusiastically about your event to enough people, funds will eventually flow in! This philosophy has worked well for Jim. Of course, Jim believes strongly in the events and causes he promotes, so talking enthusiastically about them come naturally. I guess the old adage is true - "*If you don't ask, you don't get!*" And speaking of getting, make sure you "*ge!*" to Smiths Falls on July 16-18 for the annual Canal, Railway & Chocolate Festival.

P.S. When you go, plan on a Voyageur Canoe ride through the "*Swale*"

Festival Ideas...

Hockeyfest Music Festival...

I have just learned about a great new event that is taking place in Brantford on Friday, June 4th and Saturday, June 5th, the Hockeyfest Music Festival. It is being held in conjunction with the 4th annual Walter Gretsky's Street Hockey Tournament (July 4-6). Although it's a new event, the organizers have managed to attract some great musical performers! Friday night boost many wonderful local Brantford talent, while Saturday's groups include *Our Lady Peace*, *The Trews*, *Marianas Trench*, *Streetpharmacy* and special guests, *My Darkest Days*. The festival takes place in Brantford's Lion's Park. Tickets to the event can be purchased on line (when you visit their website - <http://www.brantfordhockeyfest.com>) or at the gate. As the organizers of the event say, "*Hockeyfest is going to be one of the largest music events that the City of Brantford has ever seen.*" Judging by the talent that will be performing, this claim might well become true!

Gardens Plus...

June 23rd marks the start of Gardens Plus annual *Hosta Fest*. The event runs from June 23rd to July 5th. Walk through the display gardens and enjoy the beauty of over 350 varieties of Hostas. Make sure you bring your camera so that you can capture all shapes and colours. You can find out more about this great event or about "*Daylilies in Bloom*" (July 7-31) by visiting the Gardens Plus website at <http://www.gardensplus.ca>.

Grail Lady Faire and Worldshift Symposium...

On Saturday, June 26th Grail Springs presents Worldshift '*Awakening the Dreamer: Changing the Dream Symposium*'. "*Designed with the collaboration of some of the finest scientific, indigenous and activist minds in the world, the Symposium explores the current state of our planet from a new perspective, and connects participants with a powerful global movement to reclaim our future.*" This is a one day event that hopes to help participants answer a number of important "*World*" questions that will led to "*Awakening the Dreamer*" Symposium information can be found at the Grail Springs website - <http://www.grailsprings.com/Events-WorldShift-20>.

Following the Worldshift Symposium will be the Grail Lady Faire. This is a 7-day festival and symposium and will be held at the Grail Springs Retreat in Bancroft. The Grail Lady Faire is open to "*all women*. *Women who are agents of change or are becoming agents of change. Women who wish to explore, find and embrace their true legacy. Women who are ready to roll up their sleeves and answer the call to action. Women who are looking for assistance, looking to impact, partner, co-create, invest, collaborate. Women who have wisdom to share or wisdom to glean. Women of conscience, women of service, women of an open heart.*" Madeleine Marentette, author and founder of Grail Springs, calls the Faire "*The Enlightened Woodstock for Women*". With over 21 World Class Speakers presenting their thoughts and ideas, the Grail Lady Faire offers all participants the opportunity to "*open (their) hearts, minds and Spirit to the incoming feminine*". The Faire takes place from Sunday, June 27th to Sunday, July 4th. For further details, visit the Faire's website at <http://www.grailsprings.com/Events-Grail-Lady-Faire>.

Festival Tips

By Judi McWilliams

Souvenirs

Many times the "*Festival Nomad*" has made reference to my "*habit*" of collecting pens from the various festivals and events we have visited. It's fun to look at just how many places we have been and the great times we've had. This got me to thinking about traveling to festivals and events with children or grandkids or nieces and nephews. Most of the kids I know love to collect "*souvenirs*" from their different travels. I think one "souvenir" idea would be to purchase a postcard from each "*festival/event*" town visited and then mail it back "*home*" from that location. The kids could take a moment to write down something fun or interesting about the festival or event they just visited. The adults could assist the younger ones. It would be a good idea to keep a number of stamps handy in the car so that you can post them easily from the festival/event location. Sometimes finding stamps to purchase can be a difficult, if not impossible task! It will be fun for the kids to see how long it takes for the postcard to arrive home. At the end of your festival year, these postcards will be a nice way to capture and reminisce about all the fun times you had and all the great places you visited. You can even make a scrapbook and add your favourite photos, ticket stubs, programs, etc. from all the events. Here's a list of some of the other types of "*souvenirs*" you and your kids might like to try collecting while visiting all the wonderful festivals and events throughout Ontario...

Pebbles from a sandy beach

Postcards

Festival and Event Program guides

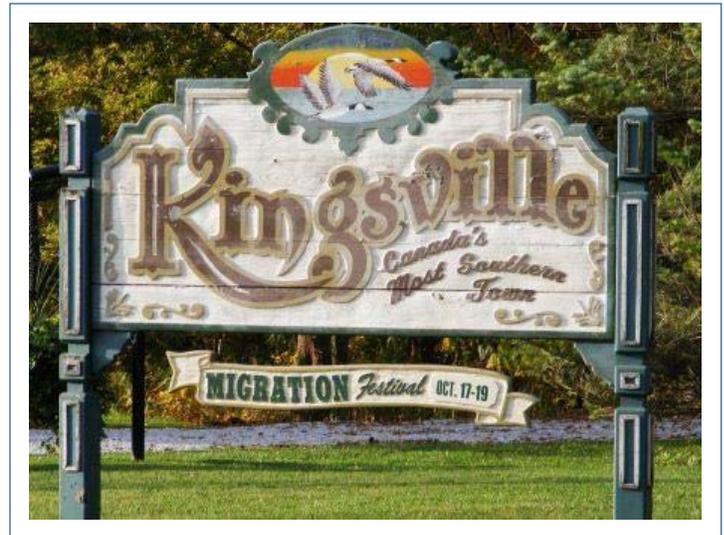
Pens

Hats

Pins

Ticket stubs

Flowers or leaves to press



"Kingsville Welcome Sign"
Migration Festival



"Waterford Welcome Sign"
Waterford Pumpkinfest

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P.O. Box 272

Cobourg, ON K9A 4K8 CANADA

Phone/Fax:

1-888-818-0255

E-mail: info@ontariofestivalvisited.ca