



ONTARIO

Festivals Visited

Festival Notes

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Happy Canada Day!

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

As I write this article, it's the day before Canada Day, July 1st. This is one of my favorite days, right up there with Christmas. We keep on hearing that the United States have so much pride in their country and that they really know how to celebrate the "4th of July". People seem to think that Canadians don't know how to show their pride. I do not believe that there is any truth to this! Having visited 4 Canada Day events last year, I can tell you that National pride is certainly alive and well in communities across Ontario and, for that matter, across Canada! It seems that most Ontario communities, large and small, celebrates Canada. That's why, tomorrow, Judi and I are going to travel to various communities to see how they celebrate Canada Day. I am looking forward to our visits and to celebrating Canada with my fellow Canadians!

Festival Nomad's Report...

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

June saw us visiting a few more events, not as many as we would like, but more. At the end of May we visited the **Schomberg Spring Fair** with Judi's "older" sister Carol. We had a great time and took lots of pictures. Schomberg is a beautiful quaint town and we look forward to returning. Speaking of sister Carol, she agreed to become a "Festival Nomad" correspondent and visited the **Windfall Ecology Festival** in Newmarket. Her article will be posted on the *Ontario Festivals Visited* website shortly. In the middle of June we visited the **Stirling Truck Show**. It's amazing how massive these trucks are when you get up close. The pride of ownership certainly showed! On the last weekend of June we travelled to the Peterborough area and visited the "Hosta Fest" at **Gardens Plus**. The "riot" of colours was breathtaking! The "Hosta Fest" will be coming to an end soon, but Gardens Plus "Daylilies in Bloom" will just be starting. Gardens Plus owner, Dawn, assures me that the colours will be even more spectacular! Gardens Plus is the place to go in July!



"Taking a Break!"
The Nomad with Sister-in-Law, Carol
Schomberg Spring Fair

Please see *Festival Nomad's Report...* on page 3

Festival Nomad's Report ... from page 1

From Gardens Plus we traveled north to Buckhorn and the **McLean Berry Farm**. We knew that the strawberry season was still on but coming to a close quickly. Judi wanted some fresh strawberries and spent an hour or so on her knees picking them fresh off the plant. She is still in "*Strawberry Heaven*". While waiting for Judi to finish picking, I talked with Erin McLean and she told me their raspberries were now in season and that the McLean Berry Farm planned on having a big celebration on Canada Day!

July is shaping up to be a very busy month for us.

Here a few of the events that we may visit:

July 1 - Canada Day Celebrations

July 1-4 - Cobourg Waterfront Festival

July 7-31 - Daylilies in Bloom at **Gardens Plus** (Peterborough)

July 8-11 - Cornwall Lift-Off

July 9 - Don McLean at **IlluminAqua** (Welland)

July 10 - St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival begins (Prescott)

July 9 - 10 - Oshawa International Festival

July 9-11 - Mariposa Folk Festival (Orillia)

July 16-18 - Canal, Railway & Chocolate Festival (Smiths Falls)

July 16-18 - Stewart Park Festival (Perth)

July 16-18 - Mississauga Ribfest

July 16-25 - Beaches International Jazz Festival

July 23-25 - Wasaga Under Siege (Wasaga Beach)

July 23-25 - Lakefield Fair

July 30-31 - Aurora Jazz+ Festival

July 29-August 1 - Rockhound Gemboree (Bancroft)

July 30-August 2 - Kempenfest (Barrie)

July 31-August 1 - Coe Hill Wild West Weekend

Looks Can Be Deceiving...

Did you ever go somewhere or plan to do something and have a pre-conceived notion of how it was going to look or what was going to happen? I'm sure that this happens to us all at some time or other. Visiting as many festivals and events as we do, Judi and I are quite often surprised. Sometimes negatively, but most often in a positive manner! Some of our "*discoveries*" are greater than others. Take the **Norwood Fall Fair** as an example. If you have ever been to Norwood you would know that it is a very small rural community.



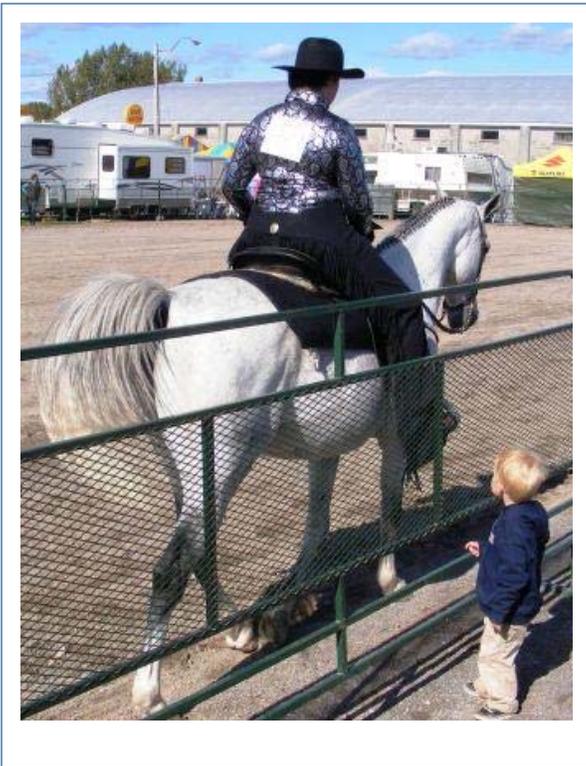
"Welcome to the Ecology Centre"
Windfall Ecology Festival



"Challenging Maneuver"
Stirling Truck Show



"One of Thousands!"
Hosta Fest
Gardens Plus - Peterborough



"Lots of Horses at the Fair"
Norwood Fall Fair



"Judi Sampling the Strawberries"
McLean Berry Farm - Buckhorn

Looks Can Be Deceiving... from page 2

I don't know the exact population, but it's not large. So when Judi and I decided to visit the Norwood Fall Fair last fall, my expectations were not that high. Boy, was I wrong! This was a fantastic event, large, well organized and definitely worth visiting! I really should have guessed that it would be a great event, because their website was one of the best I'd seen. Like the fair itself, it was clean, well organized and informative. Others events through the years have also impressed and surprised us, but I think the Norwood Fall Fair surprised us the most! I guess the moral is, don't pre-judge an event, you may miss something really special!

Festival Ideas...

Walking Sticks...

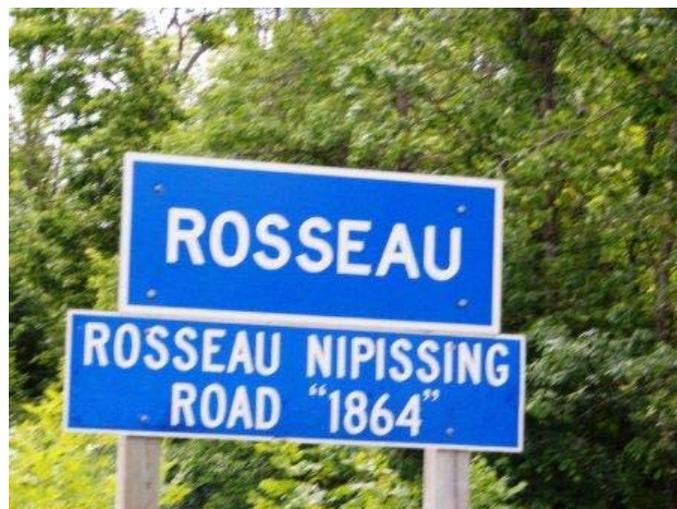
Visiting festivals and events usually involves a fair amount of walking. This is especially true for festivals like *Kempfest* in Barrie and the *Cobourg Waterfront Festival*. Lately Judi and I have been "*in training*" It's not that we are purposely training for our "*festival walks*", it's that my doctor has insisted that I walk daily. To this end I have been "*dragging*" Judi along with me. Every morning we get up at "*dawn*" or "*later*", (usually later), and start out on our 4 mile walk along Cobourg's beautiful lakeshore. Sometimes we are all alone (when it's raining or cold) and sometimes it's very crowded (good weather). Whatever the weather, you'll find us tramping along the roads and walkways of Cobourg. It's funny, now that we have been walking for almost a year (less the 4 month recovery from my heart operation), on any occasion that we don't walk I feel cheated and tired! Lately a new torturer has been added to our exercise regime! Our "*sweet/loveable*" sister/sister-in-law, Carol, gave us each a "*sinister*" set of "*walking sticks*" (*think of them as summer ski poles*). The whole idea of the "*sticks*" is to make you work harder (and I thought walking was hard enough!) and they do! Once you get the "*hang*" (co-ordination) of the "*sticks*" you seem to "*fly*" along the road! People stare at us in amazement? I'm not sure if they are staring in wonderment or because we are walking with "*ski*" poles and there's no snow! Judi and I, though feel like we are "*pathfinders*" and everyone will be tramping around the town with "*poles*" soon. We'll see what the future holds! In the meantime, with all this walking and exercise, Judi and I are totally ready for our "*long*" festival walks! See you around!

Festival Tips

By Judi McWilliams

"Trust Me, Turn Right..."

It is with reluctance that I write this "Tip", for you see, it might just led to much embarrassment! However, it might just save **"YOU"** a lot of time, energy and frustration while traveling to Ontario's highways and byways to all its great festivals and events. Over the years I have left most of the driving to the *Festival Nomad*. Most of the time it seems that we are traveling to new destinations that we have never experienced. Prior to the inventions of the "GPS", Google Maps, Map Quest, etc., we used "old fashioned" methods of directions. That is, directions by "word of mouth" or an ancient "huge" folding map (*usually creased right where you needed to see but now could not*). Now, when approaching our final destination the *Festival Nomad* asks "me" for directions. I, with much confidence, tell him ... "trust me ... turn right!". He believes me and follows my directions! (*Foolish Nomad!*) Many times we end up in towns we had just traveled through! Honestly, I always seem to feel confident which way to go! I say it with confidence and I am inevitably wrong! We "do" have modern technology now and I, humbly, recommend printing out a map from the internet before you leave home. Make sure you take it with you! GPS's may come in handy helping you navigate through any unforeseen road closures and detours, but then again, you have to know how to work one of those "d**##n" things! Failing everything "modern", try the "old fashioned" method ... a "folding map", "word of mouth" (preferably not mine), or even an actual "compass". If all else fails, follow the sun! if that fails, honestly ... "keep turning right!" .



"It Took 4 Hours to Get There!"
Rosseau Classic Cruise



"One of the many towns we passed through on our way to Perth!"
Festival of Maples - Perth

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