



ONTARIO
Festivals Visited

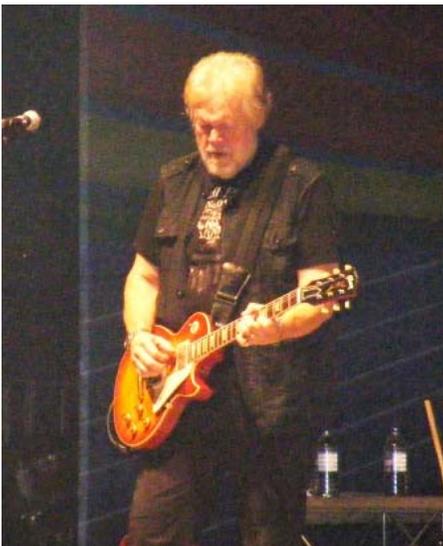
Festival Notes

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"Randy Bachman in concert"
Cornwall Lift-Off

Festival Fanatics!

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

What is it about festivals and events that brings out the fanaticism in people? It doesn't matter where Judi and I go, we always see crowds of people visiting each event and really enjoying themselves! The fact that people are visiting festivals and events is not the surprising part, it's that they are visiting in all kinds of conditions! Let me elaborate with a few examples!

BRIGHTON WINTERFEST: I am sitting in the stands of the *Brighton Speedway* during the *Brighton Winterfest*. All around me people are watching snowmobiles circle around the race track. This is not so unusual, unless you add the fact that a massive snow storm had just started and we could hardly see the track, let alone the snowmobile racers! No one left, including the *Nomad*!

STIRLING TRUCK SHOW: It's a beautiful day; the sun is shining high in the sky. The large trucks are gleaming in the sunlight. Hundreds of people are milling around the trucks with obvious fascination. The sun is beating down and it's over **30 degrees Celsius**! No one seems to notice, even though the sweat is pouring down our faces! Fortunately show organizers had the good sense to offer visitors free bottles of ice cold water!

CORNWALL LIFT-OFF: It's Friday night at the *Cornwall Lift-Off*. Thousands are flocking onto the festival grounds to enjoy the music of *Lighthouse* and then *Randy Bachman* (of *BTO* fame). There is nothing unusual about this! No, except that it's raining very hard and this is going to be an outdoor concert! It was amazing to watch the crowd and their umbrellas sway to the sound of the music, in the rain!

There are many more events and places that I could name, all with similar stories, but I think you get the point! If it's a festival or event worth attending, people will come, *rain or shine; hot or cold; snow or no snow*! These my "festival friends" are *Festival Fanatics*!

Festival Nomad's Report...

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

July - As I suggested last month, July was very busy! It started off on July 1st, *Canada Day 2010*, with Judi and I traveling from community to community to visit *Canada Day* celebrations. Our journey began in *Wellington* and ended back in *Cobourg*. Following the *Canada Day Weekend*, we drove to *Cornwall* and stayed for the weekend. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, we visited the *Cornwall Lift-Off*. There was a side trip Saturday night to Prescott to attend the *St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival* opening night play, "*Trouble on Dibble Street*". The 3rd weekend took us east again, this time to *Smith Falls* and *Perth*. In *Smith Falls* we re-visited the *Canal, Railway and Chocolate Festival*. In *Perth* we visited the *Stewart Park Festival*. That was Saturday. On Sunday we traveled west to *Mississauga* to the *Mississauga Rotary Ribfest*. The next weekend we stayed home, but our *Festival Correspondent*, *Carol Law*, visited the *Around the World Multicultural Tour*, held in *Newmarket*. The final weekend of July was also busy with a visit to *Estival* in *Port Hope* and then north to *Aurora* for the *Aurora Jazz Festival!* (You can read about each of these events by visiting the *Ontario Festivals Visited* website at www.ontariofestivalsvisited.ca).

August looks like it will be very exciting too! Here's a list of possible events that we hope to visit.

- August 1** - Coe Hill Wild West Weekend
- August 1** - Rockhound Gemboree (Bancroft)
- August 1** - Kempenfest (Barrie)
- August 7** - Siege of Fort Erie
- August 14** - Fur Trade Re-enactment (Lang Pioneer Village)
- August 15** - Bayside Boutique Art Show
- August 15** - Buckhorn Fine Art Festival
- August 21** - Peak to Shore Music & ArtFest (Collingwood)
- August 28** - Railway, Country & Bluegrass Festival (Cookstown)

Clickety, Clack...

An article written by **James A. Brown**, Railway Historian and Author, "*the band between blues music and railways isn't hard to find.*"

Please see *Clickety, Clack...* on page 3



"Canada Day Parade"
Wellington Canada Day Celebrations - 2010



"Lady Bug Hot Air Balloon"
Cornwall Lift-Off



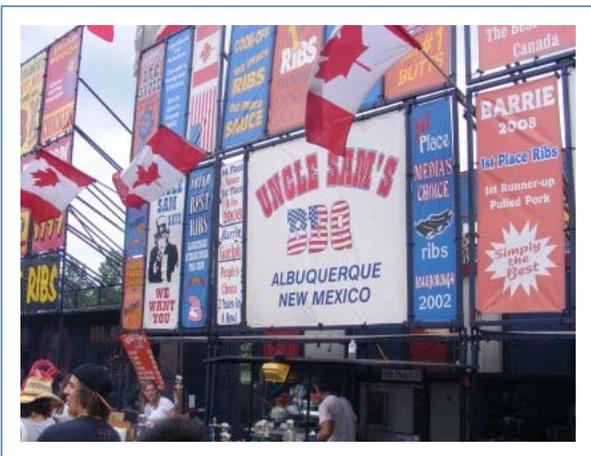
"Scene from the play *Trouble on Dibble Street*"
St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival
Prescott



"Shriners having fun in the parade!"
Canal, Railway and Chocolate Festival
Smiths Falls



"Jamming!"
Stewart Park Festival
Perth



"Uncle Sam's BBQ"
Mississauga Rotary Ribfest

Clickety, Clack... from page 2

"the wail of an old steam whistle, the swaying of the coaches, the rhythmic clickety clack of wheels in the rail joints can be heard today in so many of the blues classic." In this tradition, the *Railway, Country & Bluegrass Festival* was created, to showcase country and bluegrass artists, while supporting, through the *Ontario Railway Foundation*, railway projects. This year's *Railway Country & Bluegrass Festival*, located at the *North Toronto Cookstown KOA Kampground*, features "*Jason McCoy's 40th Birthday Bash with Jason McCoy and Friends*". Other performers include *Amanda Wilkinson, Larry Cordle, The Higgins, Deric Ruttan* and many more! This year's festival will be a two day extravaganza and will be fun for the whole family! It all happens on Friday August 27th and Saturday August 28th, 2010. Check out their website at <http://www.railwayblues.com>. I hope to see you there!

What's Your Passion?

If it's wine, food and music, *Niagara-on-the-Lake* is the place to be on Saturday August 21st, 2010. That's when and where the *Niagara Passion* takes place! *Niagara Passion*, an inspiration of *The Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake*, offers festival visitors plenty of excitement to satisfy the most discerning "*Passions*". At *Niagara Passion* you will be able to "*sip wine from 22 wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake*", "*Savour the finest cuisine from 17 Niagara Restaurants*" and "*Swing to the Live Jazz with Juliet Dunn and the Kitt Cat Collective*"! Also included at the "*Passion*", you can "*watch Artists create works of art*", attend "*Food and Wine Seminars*" and "*Bid at the Live and Silent auctions*"! We would suggest that if you are interested in finding out more about this great event, that you visit their website at <http://www.niagarapassion.com/index.php>. *Discover your Passion!*

Festival Ideas...

It's Too Far...

It's funny! We heard this comment when we visited the *Cornwall Lift-Off*. I had asked our hotel clerk how far it was to the festival grounds and, if he thought Judi and I could walk there. His immediate response and that of the clerk beside him was "*It's too far!*".

Please see *Festival Ideas...* on page 3

Festival Ideas... from page 2

That evening Judi and I drove from the hotel to the festival park. I kept track of the kilometers. Neither Judi or I thought it was "too far". So the next morning we donned our walking shoes and set off for the park. We made it easily and no worse for wear. It did, however start me to "thinking". As we travel along the sidewalks to Cornwall, we noticed many unique and interesting things! The first and most prominent was the bridge to the U.S.A. We noticed how large it was, how far it expanded and how many cars were passing above us. Along the way we also noticed unique houses, interesting people and beautiful flowers! Would we have noticed any of this if we had driven? I doubt it! Here is where the "thinking" kicked in. How many communities have we missed "really" seeing? How many unique buildings, beautiful gardens, and interesting people have we missed along the way? I don't know the answer, but I am sure it must be hundreds, perhaps thousand. The next Saturday, after our Cornwall trip, we traveled to Perth for their *Stewart Park Festival*. This time we decided to park further away and to walk through the town! We are glad we did! We noticed their beautiful historic buildings, the rush of the Tay River and the fabulous clock tower on their Town Hall. From now on Judi and I are going to park further away from the action and take our time walking to the event. We want to enjoy all that there is to see and discover. I hope that you will take our lead, and start walking too! **ENJOY! DISCOVER! It's never too far!**

Festival Tips

By Judi McWilliams

Loosing Track of Time and Place...

The *Festival Nomad* has written in the past how it is great to share our wonderful experiences of visiting Ontario's festivals and events, with family, friends, and neighbors. On many occasions our grandchildren and family members have joined in the fun with us. Recently we visited the *Schomberg Spring Fair* and decided to take my "older" sister, Carol, with us. Carol and I hadn't been to a fair together since our childhood, so I was excited to experience the day's adventures. Carol has a very "interesting" sense of humor! This is best illustrated if you take a look at the "photo" (as shown here) of "our family tree". We began to get "caught up" in our wonderful experience of this "old fashioned" fair. It was as if we had been transported in time and space. We wandered off, and eventually off the fair grounds! Unknowingly we ended up at a British tea shop in the downtown area. We arrived there "without" the *Festival Nomad*! Blissfully unaware of our lose, we entered the shop and bought treats, candies, "ecceles cakes", and more. It was then the *Festival Nomad* found us and let us know that we had missed several parts of the fair! So, my festival tip to you is to try to "stay focused"! Don't forget your other travelers (especially the *Festival Nomad*)! However, no matter how "lost" you become, make sure that you always enjoy the moment!



"Judi's and Carol's Family Tree!"
Schomberg Spring Fair

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