



ONTARIO

Festivals Visited

Festival Notes

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"Now that's a BIG pumpkin - 1225 pounds!"
Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show



"Grooming for the show"
Rockton World's Fair

Autumn Events...

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

There are many reasons to love the fall! The smell of burning leaves (*in the country*). The taste of freshly picked vegetables and fruit. The resplendent fall colours and the crisp fresh air. Autumn events, also fill the calendar. They make fall even seem that much better! The next two months will be full of them. I know that Judi and I plan on visiting quite a few. Here are some that you might consider visiting:

APPLEFEST (*in Lang Pioneer Village*) - This is a super fall event featuring the Village's apple cider press. There are lots of "apple" type events have been planned for the whole family!

ROCKTON WORLD'S FAIR - Rockton is a sleepy little village located close to Hamilton. It really comes alive in October during the *Rockton World's Fair*. Judi and I visited it a couple of years ago and had a great time there, music, giant pumpkins, horses farm animals and more!

NORFOLK COUNTY FAIR & HORSE SHOW - The Norfolk Fair is held in Simcoe and is one of the best fairs we have visited! It is packed with things to do. This year's grandstand show is being kicked off by Canada's own "*Barenaked Ladies*"! Food lovers can visit the "*Norfolklicious Stage*" and learn from celebrity Chef *Lynn Crawford!*

NORWOOD FALL FAIR - This is another great fair! It is located in the village of Norwood (*just east of Peterborough*). When I think of all the events we have visited over the years, this event is one of the most surprising (*pleasantly*). As a fall fair, I would rate it right at the top!

MCLEAN PUMPKIN FESTIVAL - The *McLean Berry Farm* just recently purchased a nearby farm. Included in their acquisition was an annual *Pumpkin Festival*. With the McLean's flare for holding great events (*Buckhorn Maple Syrup Festival, Strawberry Festival*), this should be an event not to miss!

MIGRATION FESTIVAL - The Migration Festival is held in Kingsville and is a tribute to the legacy of conservationist, *Jack Miner*. It is also a celebration of waterfowl migration. The event includes a wonderful "*migration*" parade.

Please see *Autumn Events* on page 4

Festival Nomad's Report...

In SEPTEMBER, there were twelve events visited by Judi and me and three of our *Festival Nomad Correspondents!* At the end of August and beginning of September, *Festival Nomad Correspondents, Connie and Tom McAleese* traveled to the Owen Sound area. During their trip, they managed to visit the *Keady Farmers' Market* and the *Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular*. Both events sounded like a lot of fun! Also, at the beginning of the month, Judi and I visited the *Kinmount Fair*. We arrived in time to watch a great parade and then went on to enjoy their wonderful fair. The next day we were in Keene at *Lang Pioneer Village*. The Village was holding their annual *Pioneer Corn Roast*. Judi also was a volunteer at this event. While we were enjoying roasted corn, Tom and Connie were in Toronto visiting the *Fiera Festival*. This is an Italian "flavoured" event with lots of food and music! September 11th was a very busy day for *Festival Nomad Correspondents!* Judi and I were in Trenton for the *Trenton Scottish Irish Festival*. The pipes and drums were amazing! *Festival Nomad Correspondent, Carol Law*, was in Kettleby at the *Kettleby Fair*. Carol belongs to the *Newmarket Citizens Band* and they marched in the *Kettleby Fair's* parade. I don't know how she managed it, but one of her photos was taken while she was marching in the parade (*she plays the "Kettle Drum"*). In Toronto, Tom and Connie were visiting the *Cabbagetown Festival*. Like other events that Tom and Connie have visited, there was lots of food and music to enjoy! In west Ontario, *Festival Nomad Correspondent, Anne Brooks*, was in *Port Rowan's Backus Conservation Area*. She was there for the *Backus War of 1812 Re-enactment*. Anne's photos of the re-enactment are amazing! We have posted both her article and photos on the *Ontario Festivals Visited* website and on our new *War of 1812 Celebrations* website. In the middle of the month, Judi and I traveled north to Barrie. We were there to visit the *Nine Mile Portage Heritage Festival*. This event, organized by *War of 1812* expert *David Brunelle*, starts at *Heritage Park* in downtown Barrie and ends at *Historic Fort Willow*. On the same weekend, Connie and Tom were back in Toronto at the *Ukrainian Festival*. This fun filled event is held in Toronto's west end. My last event for the month was at a *Toronto Blue Jays Game*. This is the game where *Jose Bautista* hit his 51st and 52nd home runs! The final event visited in September was the *Stratford Perth County Culinary Festival*. *Festival Nomad Correspondents, Connie and Tom McAleese* were in Stratford to attend a *Stratford Festival play*. While they were there, they discovered and visited the *Culinary Festival*.



"Shriners' Train"
Kinmount Fair Parade



"Lots of music!"
Fiera Festival



"Photo taken while marching in parade!"
Kettleby Fair

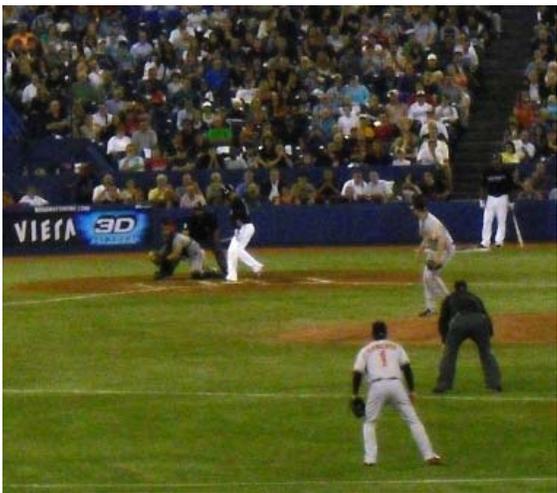
Please see *Festival Nomad's Report...* on page 3



*"Pipes and Drums
Trenton Scottish Irish Festival*



*"Smoke fills the battle field!"
Backus War of 1812 Re-enactment*



*"Jose Bautista - League leading 52nd Home Run"
Toronto Blue Jays Game*

Festival Nomad's Report from page 2

All of the events mentioned in this article are now posted on the *Ontario Festivals Visited* website. Please take a few moments to read them. I hope you enjoy articles, I know we all enjoyed visiting the events!

Here is a list of the festivals and events tentatively scheduled for **OCTOBER**:

October 2 - **Invasion of Upper Canada** at Fanshawe Pioneer Village

October 3 - **Applefest** at Lang Pioneer Village

October 9 - **Rockton World's Fair**

October 9 - **Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show**

October 10 - **McLean Pumpkin Festival**

October 16 - **Kingsville Migration Festival**

October 23 - **Keene Pumpkinfest**

October 23 - **Spooky Hallowe'en** at Lang Pioneer Village

INSIDE with the *Festival Nomad*...

Over the years I have attended, worked with and organized hundreds of festivals and events. With this new series, "*INSIDE* with the *Festival Nomad*", I want to give you an "*inside*" look at some of the festivals and events that I have been involved with or that I have visited. Along the way, I have had a lot of fun and sometimes frustration, but I have never been bored!

Our First Big Show...

The *Ottawa Boat Show* and the *Hamilton Sportsmen's Show*, plus a couple of other smaller shows, were the prelude to the really "*Big*" Show! If we thought that these smaller shows were a challenge, they were "*nothing*" compared to the *Toronto Sportsmen's Show*. Back when we first exhibited at the *Toronto Sportsmen's Show*, it was being held in the old Coliseum Building at the Exhibition ground in downtown Toronto. The new *Direct Energy Centre* wasn't, I don't think, a gleam in some politician's eye! In order to set up in the Coliseum, you had to be given a time and day. If you wanted anything special (*electricity, carpet, lights, etc.*), you had to book days in advance. There was a lot more at stake, because all of the costs were a lot higher! The first year we started off with a small booth 10" X 10'. We had jammed the booth so full of framed art, that we could hardly move. This was a good thing, because people who visited the show, were really interested in our products. We were specializing in *wildlife art* by some of the best known Canadian Wildlife Artists. Because of the type of show, our booth was quite popular, especially with other exhibitors. This was our first really financially successful show and it "*sucked*" us in to doing more. In all, we participated in about four *Toronto Sportsmen's Shows*.

Please see *INSIDE with the Festival Nomad...* on page 4

Autumn Events from page 1

KEENE PUMPKINFEST - This is a new event to us, but in reading their website it sounded very interesting. Also, it is located close to *Lang Pioneer Village*. We thought it would be worth visiting this year.

Autumn also means "*Hallowe'en*"! Two events that you might consider:

FORT FRIGHT (*held at Fort Henry in Kingston*) - My Eddy (*my son-in-law*) and I visited the Fort last year and had great fun! The Fort Henry staff go all the way to make this a really special attraction! It is held for 30 plus days. It runs until October 31st, so there is plenty of time to drive to Kingston to experience it. If you like to be "*frightened*", this is a "*must*" visit.

SPOOKY HALLOWE'EN (*in Lang Pioneer Village*) - *Spooky Halloween* is a "*child friendly*" celebration of Hallowe'en. It's being held on 4 nights, Friday, October 15, Saturday, October 16, Friday, October 22 and Saturday, October 23. Organizer *Laurie Siblock* tells us that it has been planned so that the whole family can have a lot of fun! (*i.e. Not too scary!*)

There are so many more events to consider. Check out our *Festival/Event Calendars* for more events and dates, There are links on the calendar to each event's website. Most of all, **HAVE FUN!**



"Hand made rope"
Pioneer Corn Roast
Lang Pioneer Village



"Music from the stage"
Toronto Ukrainian Festival

INSIDE with the Festival Nomad from page 3

Each time we expanded a little until the final year we took four 10' x 10' booths. This turned out to be a mistake because interest in wildlife art had slowed down. Surprisingly, in all the Consumer Shows we did over the years, we never had any products stolen! Unfortunately, this record was broken in our last Sportsmen's Show, when one of *Michael Dumas'* originals was stolen. Although we had tried to take every precaution to protect the paintings, someone snipped the wire that attached the painting to the booth wall. The painting was never recovered. Once we started doing the bigger shows, our set-up and take down techniques seemed to improve. Each time seemed to become easier. There were still challenges, but all were small in comparison to our first shows. These shows were a wonderful experience. However, time eventually began to wear us out and it was time to find a permanent location. That's when we discovered *Cobourg!*

NOTE: If you would like to read more "*INSIDE with the Festival Nomad*" articles, please go to my weekly "*The Adventures of the Festival Nomad*" blog.

(<http://nomadsblog.ontariofestivalsvisited.ca>)

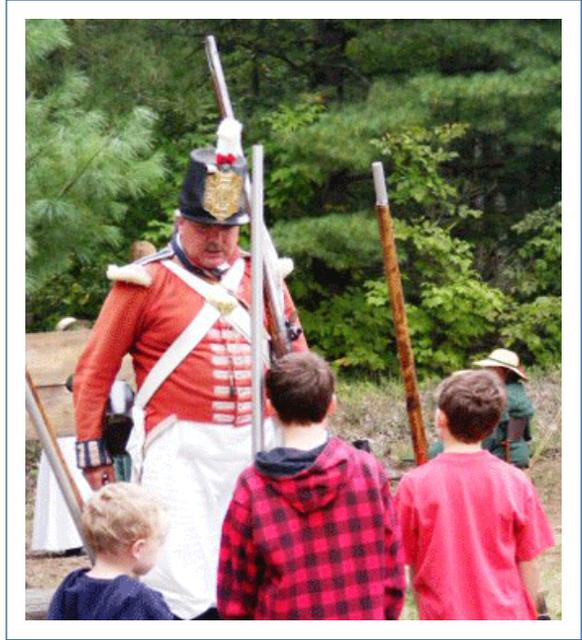
Festival Ideas...

By Judi McWilliams

Researching the War of 1812...

I was really excited when Gary, aka the *Festival Nomad*, asked me to research and write some articles about the *War of 1812*. These articles are to be published in our new *War of 1812 Celebrations* website. Gary and I have thoroughly enjoyed our many visits to *War of 1812 Re-enactments*. The thought, that in less than two years the bicentennial will take place, is very exciting! My knowledge of this period's history is very limited, so I was completely unprepared for the massive amount of information available. Today's internet makes researching this kind of topic extremely easy! What is even more exciting, to me, is the fact that a lot of the re-enactment history, especially with the upcoming Bi-Centennial Celebrations in 2012, is being taught in Ontario's high schools! As we visited re-enactments, I noticed a number of similarities. The battles, themselves, seem to have been strategically choreographed and follow certain patterns. The encampments also seem to be strategically placed. Costumes are all intricate and accurate. It is my belief that to the re-enactors, historic accuracy is a very serious matter! The term I found most interesting was "*the ten foot rule*", a measurement "*from ten feet away*". *If it looks period from that distance, you just might pass!* Who knows from afar if it's "*leather or vinyl*", if it has "*too many threads per inch in the weave*" or if it's "*hand-made or factory made in Taiwan*"! Apparently there are "*judgmental characters*"! Re-enactors say disparaging remarks and names about such folks, things like "*thread counters*" and "*garb snarks*". I, of course, could never criticize. I am too much of a "*neophyte*" in this game! However, it is fun to speculate! There are many, many other interesting facts and rules and regulations about the *War of 1812* waiting to be *re-discovered*. I can hardly wait to research and write more articles. And, my excitement only grows more, as we visit the further re-enactments. The *Festival Nomad*, himself, seems to now be deferring to me when it comes to *War of 1812* information. He keeps on asking for my opinions, comments, insights when we are out there "*in-the-fields*"!

NOTE: If you would like to read Judi's *War of 1812* articles, go to our *War of 1812 Celebrations* website and click on the "*Celebrations Articles*" icon.
(<http://war1812celebrations.ontariofestivalsvisited.ca>)



"Training young recruits!"
Nine Mile Portage Heritage Festival



"Weighing In at the Derby"
Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular



"Market produce for sale- Farmers Feed Cities!"
Stratford Perth County Culinary Festival

Festival Tips

By Judi McWilliams

Not To Be Forgotten!

Traveling with the *Festival Nomad* never seems to "get old"! Recently it occurred to me, that although we have written many "tips" over the years, there seems to be a number of "tips" that even we have forgotten to remember. For this reason, I thought it would be a good idea to let you in on some of our "forgotten but needed tips"! Each has an underlying "Moral"!

Fill 'er up!

Without sounding like a broken record, I'll start with one of the most basic tips when traveling, fill up the car with gas **BEFORE** you leave on your trip! Sometimes when a price seems to be too good, it is good! This is certainly the case in Cobourg! I suggest that you fill-up at home, before you venture out too far. There is a two-fold reason. The prices may be better where you are than at out-of-the-way gas stations. You might find that you are paying *an arm and a leg* when you could have paid just a *leg* at home! The second reason is that you may run-out of gas thinking that the next fill-up is close by, but only to discover that the next gas station is really far away! The "Moral" here, "fill 'er up 'cheap' and you won't run out!"

Ask a local!

We recently had the pleasure of traveling and staying in a town. We enjoyed two wonderful days visiting a festival. Although we carefully packed our traditional "*delicious picnic basket*", and buried it in lots of ice, by the time dinner came, even with the best packing, our "*food supply*" did not survive the long hot journey! As a result we were forced to look for a reasonable alternative, supper out! We decided to look in the telephone directory for a local restaurant to enjoy. You might think that the ad that with the largest selection and most information, was the best choice! We thought so. However, by some remarkable chance, we decided to ask the clerks hotel check-in counter for their recommendations. Sure enough, our selection was NOT considered the best! They recommended something completely different and it was the one having the smallest ad and the tiniest print! The *Moral* here, "ask a local and get the inside scope!"

Be prepared!

All too often the *Festival Nomad* and I have made arrangements to "*rendezvous*" with other festival goers. Even when we have had the best laid plans (*of mice and men*), they can and will fall through. It seems a simple logical statement to say "we'll meet you at the local *Tim Horton coffee shop*". Only problem is that there may be more than one location in town. I myself "*lost the Festival Nomad at such a rendezvous*". I tried to telephone the local "*Tim's*" but was surprised by the "*long pause*" when I asked "*is there a senior gentleman with grey hair there?*" "*Lot's*" was the reply! At times we have tried to "*rendezvous*" with family at festivals and events. We'll say "*we will meet you there*". Well, "*there*" has often been large festival grounds, full of many entrances, buildings, people, tents, etc. "*Chance meetings*" aren't that great either, as they most often fail. Printing out a map so you can specifically identify your street addresses and then e-mailing it to the person(s) you are meeting, is a great way to avoid missed connections. The *Moral* here, "don't assume, be specific and be prepared"!

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Autumn Splendor!