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"Serving Staff"
 Eat & Drink Norfolk



"Laurie Siblock and Joe Corrigan"
 Volunteer Meet & Greet
 Lang Pioneer Village

New and Improved!

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

I am sure that many of you have seen the ads that say "**NEW & IMPROVED**". These are generally ads for well known products like Tide, Colgate, etc. The advertisers are trying to capture both new and old customers! It is an old, but very successful advertising method. So, when Judi and I decided to make some changes to our websites, I thought, why not update our newsletter too! Thus, the name change to "**THE INSIDER**"! Although our main focus is and will continue to be festivals and events, we are now broadening our visits to include fairs, attractions, heritage sites and communities. In a way, very little has changed, because we have always visited all types of events and, of course, lots of communities. It's just that we are categorizing them and placing them into separate websites. It is our hope that by doing this we can help create greater awareness of the diversity of Ontario events and communities! To help bring them all together, as I announced last month, we created a "*portal*" website, *Ontario Visited.ca*. This newsletter, "**THE INSIDER**", will reflect our new focus ... festivals/events, fairs, heritage, attractions and communities. We welcome your comments and your input.

Festival Nomad's Report...

I know that it's normal to start at the beginning, but who wants to be normal? So, instead, I'm starting this article in the middle of *April*. The explanation, actually, is quite simple. I just received an article from our new Festival Nomad Correspondent, *Wendy Brick* and I wanted to tell you about it! Wendy is the publicity "*goddess*" at the *Norfolk County Fair*. She had invited Judi and I to attend their annual "*Eat & Drink Norfolk*" and I had to decline. We had a family birthday to attend. So I had the "*brilliant*" idea to ask Wendy to "*cover it*" for us. To my delight she accepted and her article appears in both *Ontario Festivals Visited* and *Ontario Fairs Visited* websites. Now, back to the beginning, *May that is!* Our first "*visit*" for the month was at the 2011 "*Volunteer Meet and Greet*" at *Lang Pioneer Village and Museum*. As you may know, Judi volunteers at Lang, so her presence was honourable. My attendance, "*not so honourable*", was for the "*yummy treats*" and, I had heard that Lang was introducing their new *S. W. Lowry Weaver Shop*, so I was just plain nose.

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Festival Nomad's Report... from page 1

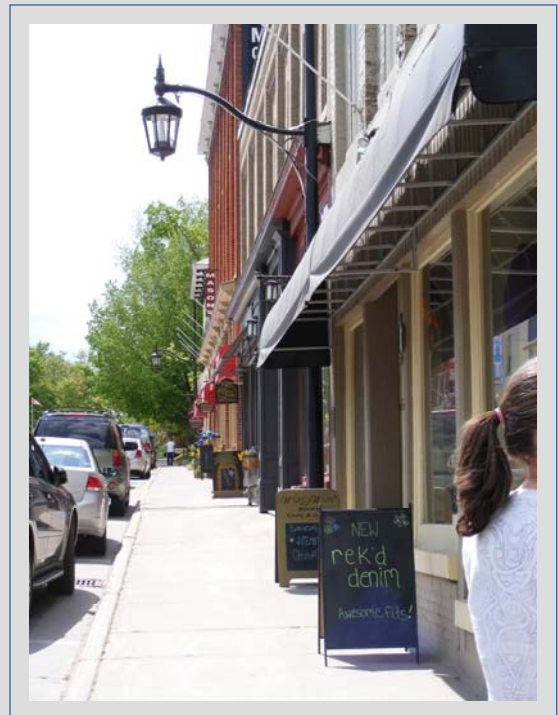
You can read my article about the new shop on our *Ontario Heritage Visited* website and there you can check out how the building looks. Other events visited during the month included a trip to the Village of Warkworth. We were fortunate because we were able to attend two events, plus we were able to explore the Village itself for an upcoming *Ontario Communities Visited* article. The two events visited in Warkworth were the *Warkworth Art in the Park* and the *Warkworth Lilac Festival*. Article for both events can be found in *Ontario Festivals Visited*. The Lilac Festival article was actually written by Festival Nomad Correspondent, Kevin Stuart. Kevin and his family visited the festival the same day, so I "conned" him into writing the article. Actually, Kevin is a good friend and he graciously accepted my plea to help me out by writing the article. After visiting both events, Judi and I drove to the nearby Village of Stirling, where we had a picnic lunch in the Village park. The park, which is located on either side of Rawdon Creek, offers an ideal place to have a picnic lunch. An *Ontario Community Visited* article will be published shortly. The weekend following our trip to Warkworth, we traveled north to Lindsay. There we were able to "kill" two birds with "one stone". Once again we were able to visit two great events! The first was *All About Horses*, produced by the Lindsay Agricultural Society. This event, held at the Lindsay Fairgrounds, is, as its name implies, *all about horses*. Judi and I had a wonderful time exploring the barns and watching different horse activities. An article about our trip now appears on the *Ontario Festivals Visited* website. The highlight, for Judi and me was our 20 minute interview with the *Mantracker*, Terry Grant. For those of you who watch the successful OLN TV program, *Mantracker*, will be pleased to know that Terry, aka The Mantracker, is every bit impressive in person as he is on TV. Judi signed off her interview with a huge "HUG" from Terry! Her "THE INSIDE SCOOP" article about Terry Grant will be published shortly. After spending the morning at *All About Horses*, Judi and I drove to the *Trent Canal Lindsay Lock* where we had another great picnic lunch! Once we had finished lunch, we traveled up Lindsay Street to Logie Street and the *Lilac Gardens of Lindsay*. This was where the *Lindsay Lilac Festival* was being held. This is a great spring festival! We had a wonderful time walking the grounds, enjoying the sounds, sights and, of course, the smells. We topped the day off by returning to the Lindsay Fairgrounds. There were a few more demonstrations I wanted to watch. While Judi and I were enjoying Lindsay, Kevin Stuart and his family had traveled east to Colborne. Here they visited the *Colborne Apple Blossom Tyme Festival*. Kevin has written a "re-visited" article about the Festival and it will be published shortly. The final event for the month was at Toronto's *Downsview Park*. This was where the *Wings and Wheels Heritage Festival* was being held.



"Vendor Booths"
Warkworth Art in the Park



"Lilacs in Bloom"
Warkworth Lilac Festival



"Downtown Stirling"
Village of Stirling

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



"Judi's New Best Friend!"
All About Horses - Lindsay



"Tea Garden"
Lindsay Lilac Festival



"The Winner Is?"
Colborne Apple Blossom Tyme Festival

Festival Nomad's Report... from page 2

Judi had a previous commitment, so I asked Kevin Stuart if he would like to join me. Happily he said yes. The Festival, which included a replica of the *Avro Arrow*, was fantastic, especially if you enjoyed antique airplanes and automobiles. An article about our visit will also be published shortly. May was a busy and exciting month, but...

June should be event "*crazier*"!!! The following is a list of potential festivals/events to be visited.

June 2 - A trip to Cabbagetown (Toronto)

June 4 - Spencerville Mill Heritage Festival

June 4 - Sunny Acres Barnyard Zoo, Spencerville (Grand Opening)

June 5 - The Great Canadian Cheese Festival (Picton)

June 11 - Peony Festival (Oshawa)

June 12 - "*The Corktown Man*" Play (Lang Pioneer Village)

June 15 & 16 - War of 1812 Bicentennial Conference

June 18 - Battle of Black Creek (Black Creek Pioneer Village)

June 19 - Ode'min Giizis Festival (Peterborough)

June 19 - Smoke and Steam Show (Lang Pioneer Village)

June 22 - Peterborough Concert Band (St. John's Anglican Church, Peterborough)

June 25 - Toronto Jazz Festival

June 26 - Canadian International Military Tattoo

June 26 - Stellar Literary Festival (Oshawa)

June 30 - Grail Lady Faire (Bancroft)

July 1 - Dominion Day (Lang Pioneer Village)

July 1 - Canada Day Celebrations (Buckhorn Community Centre)

July 2 - Hostafest at Gardens Plus (Peterborough)

July 3 - Cobourg Waterfront Festival

Inside Review...

Every once in a while Judi and I have a "*discussion*" over some aspect of our websites. Today's "*discussion*" was about a new topic in our monthly newsletter. The new topic will be "*Inside Review*". The purpose of the *Inside Review* is to let our readers know how we look at an event, festival, fair, attraction or a community that we visit. While all our reviews will be positive in nature, there will be some suggestions on how to improve some things. By doing this, we are hoping that positive results will occur and that all will benefit from our observations. As always, it is our intention to discover and promote Ontario's great communities and their events. Both Judi and I agree that this type of article will be a good addition to our newsletter. Where we do differ, however, is whether or not we identify who we are reviewing. Judi doesn't want us to name names. She is afraid that we may embarrass the organizers and volunteers by pointing out some suggested improvements. I, on the other hand, feel that we should identify who we are reviewing.

Please see *Inside Review...* on page 4

Inside Review... from page 3

I believe that by identifying a real event or community, that we are not hiding behind anonymity, that we are being up front and honest. Also, by doing this, I am hoping that others will benefit from our observations. Of course, any comments we make will be based on our own opinions and may, ultimately, prove to be wrong. However, I strongly believe that we all need to take a close look at ourselves in an efforts to improve. Standing "*pat*" should never be an option! Next month we will start the "*Inside Review*" and we'll see who "*wins*" the "*discussion*"!

INSIDE with the Festival Nomad...

Crossing the Border (Part One)

It was just two weeks after the horrific terrorist attack on the United States. The US borders, of course, were on "*high alert*"! Judi and I had traveled into the USA many times, but we knew that it would be different this time! We were scheduled to attend the annual *Ruffed Grouse Society* banquet in Warren, Michigan. This was one of the Society's largest and most important fund raising events of the year, so our participation as a major suppliers to the event and to the Society was very important! Besides, we loved attending this fantastic event, plus we had several framed prize donations to deliver! Our drive from Cobourg to the outskirts of Windsor was uneventful. However, once we got a view from the "*Peace Bridge*" crossing, we had to stop due to crossing traffic. The wait, to say the least, was painful! We crept, and I mean crept, the distance to the US Border stations. We knew what we were in store for, because we could see what was happening to our fellow border crossers. As we reached the booth, 3 US officials surrounded our van. One was the customs officer and two were soldiers with their rifles at the ready! We were told to open the back of our van, which we did, but NOT to get out of the vehicle!

(To be continued next month)

The Inside Scoop...

Interview with *Terry Grant*, aka THE MANTRACKER Terry's TV program, *Mantracker*, can be seen on the ONL television station or you can visit his website at <http://www.trackingwithterry.com/>.

With great anticipation the *Festival Nomad* and I sat in the boardroom at the *Lindsay Agricultural Society Exhibition* grounds during their recent event "*All About Horses*". Bev Roy, event organizer, had arranged for us to meet and interview none other than *The Mantracker*!

Please see *THE INSIDE SCOOP...* on page 5



"The Avro Arrow
Wings & Wheels Heritage Festival



"Warkworth Community Hall"
Village of Warkworth



"Terry Grant, *The Mantracker*"
All About Horses - Lindsay



"The Mantracker and The Nomad"
All About Horses - Lindsay



"To Close for Comfort!"
All About Horses - Lindsay

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THE INSIDE SCOOP... from page 4

Terry Grant was appearing for both days at the show, to sign autographs and talks. If you are horse lover and a lover of adventure and excitement, you will know *The Mantracker*! He appears on the television series *Mantracker* on OLN.

I gave a great deal of consideration to the questions I was going to ask Terry. I wanted my *INSIDE SCOOP* interview, with *The Mantracker*, to be different from others. When asked one particular question, even Terry said... "that's a tough question"!

The following is an excerpt from my interview with Terry.

I asked the *Mantracker* if he thought his "talent" was a dying art! He said that "it is a dying art! Through my efforts of the television series, it has just brought it up to the top of the water". He does as much educational training and workshops, but, cautioned that, in his words, "I can teach anybody to track, but you have to go into the bush and us it!"

My next question for Terry started out by asking him ... it seems that you respect people who they themselves have respect for nature, horses and other humans. It also seems you respect people who have courage and perseverance. How much do you perceive the youth of today and their concept of the importance of these qualities? With this *Mantracker* said ... "tough question!" "I don't get to see many young kids and the kids that I see don't have the skills or work ethic that we had at kids". He went on to tell me that "when he was a kid, there was no back talk, you went about your day knowing that you had chores to do. If your parents said go feed the chickens, you went, "no backtalk". Terry said that "Kids today don't seem to have any kind of drive anymore". "Kids seem to have poor attitudes and are very cocky. They have no respect for elders and no discipline". *Mantracker* totally believes that "kids should "be yourself", but, that you should learn respect." He says that "time outs" just don't cut it" He feels that "parents/caregivers keep treating our kids like kids, "like sissies", and that the grown ups want to keep the kids, kids. Later, as the kids become young adults and still act like kids, the parents wonder why they act the way they do". He says "the kids are not taught to respect, be mature and aren't learning to care and fend for themselves". Terry was raised in Creemore (near Staynor, Ontario), with his Uncle who stepped in for his Dad. At the age of 10 he lived with his grandparents until he was 17 when he moved to Alberta.

If you would like to read more about my interview with *The Mantracker*, visit my weekly *THE INSIDE SCOOP* Blog at <http://judisinsidescoop.blogspot.com/>.