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"Click on above **BUTTON** to visit  
 Ontario Event Calendar"



"Click on above **BUTTON** to visit  
 Ontario Event Finder"



"Festival Nomad Correspondent  
 Kevin Stuart"

## Website Update...

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

As many of you might remember, we introduced a number of new specialty websites at the beginning of 2011. At that time, we included separate *Event Calendars* in many of the websites. Over time, this proved to be inconvenient for our web visitors. In an effort to make our websites and *Event Calendars* easier to navigate, we have now consolidated all of our *Event Calendars* into one website, *Ontario Events Calendar*. Now visitors to *Ontario Visited* will only have one website to search to find Ontario's exciting festivals, fairs and events. This new website, along with our *Ontario Event Finder* search engine, should make finding that perfect event to visit much more convenient.

If you know of an event that should be included on either website, or you are part of an event that should be listed, please e-mail us with event information. Listing on either of the websites is *free*. *Ontario Visited* website currently attracts over 40,000+ event web visitors per month. We hope you enjoy this new consolidated service!

## Festival Nomad's Report...

*September* was the month of fall fairs, and Judi and I, along with *Festival Nomad Correspondent, Kevin Stuart* and his family visited a number of them. However, our first event of the month took us to *Old Cabbagetown* and the *Cabbagetown Festival*. Cabbagetown located near the centre of Toronto. This was a great event, full of music, food and art! We even got to visit the *Riverdale Zoo*! That same weekend Kevin and his family visited the *Orono Fair*. Kevin reports that they had a wonderful time. The next weekend took Kevin to the *Port Hope Fall Fair*. He is a member of the Fair's board and his duty for the weekend was to help out with the children's tractor pull! Judi and I, unfortunately, that weekend, were laid up with the flu. Towards the end of the month Judi and I headed north to Lindsay for the *Lindsay Exhibition*. We had been anticipating visiting for some time and were not disappointed! Articles about the above visits will be posted shortly.

*October* will be another "FALL" month. Judi and I plan on visiting both the *Norfolk County Fair* in Simcoe and the *Norwood Fair*. They take place on the *Thanksgiving* weekend. Before that Judi will be volunteering at *Lang Pioneer Village* for *Applefest*.

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*Festival Nomad's Report...* from page 1

Here is a list of some of the events that Judi and I and our *Festival Nomad Correspondents* hope to visit in October:

- October 1st - [Shakespeare's Table](#) (St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, Prescott)
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> - [Applefest](#) (Lang Pioneer Village, Keene)
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> - [Blessfest](#) (Newmarket)
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> - [Roseneath Fall Fair](#)
- October 7<sup>th</sup> - [Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show](#) (Simcoe)
- October 8<sup>th</sup> - [Rockton World's Fair](#)
- October 9<sup>th</sup> - [Norwood Fair](#)
- October 9<sup>th</sup> - [Apple Fest](#) (Bowmanville)
- October 10<sup>th</sup> - [Harvest Craft Show](#) (Buckhorn)
- October 15<sup>th</sup> - [Kingsville Migration Festival](#)
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> - [Spooky Halloween](#) (Lang Pioneer Village, Keene)
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> - [Buckhorn Harvest Festival](#) (McLean Berry Farm)
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> - [The Two Trees](#) (St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, Prescott)

## Inside Review...

The *Inside Review* is a monthly review of festivals and events that we have visited over the past month or two. In doing so, we will take a closer look at each event and then make suggestions on how events could improve themselves. Where possible, we will also mention areas that were well done! We are hoping that all of this will help broaden the scope of our reviews and help event organizers.

### SIGNAGE

I know that I am always complaining about the lack of signage at event that we visit, but I think that it's an important omission and one that is easy to fix. That's why, in this issue, I am going to compliment a number of events that have seen the light! As Judi and I have traveled through different towns this past month, we have noticed more and more event signs appearing. Congratulations to those events who have "*seen the light*"!

### FOOD

This is another area of concern, both in the quality of food (or lack of quality) and the variety of foods available. I know that it's hard for festivals "*to be all things to all people*", but I feel that the "*food area*" is one of the most important aspects of an event. For me, it defines the type of event that is being presented. Too often event organizers take the easy way out and allow poor quality foods and vendors into their event.

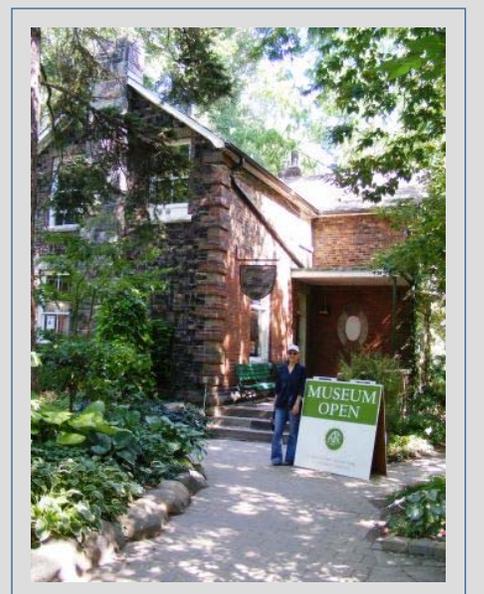
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"Drumming on the Street"  
Cabbagetown Festival



"Art in the Park"  
Cabbagetown Arts & Crafts Show



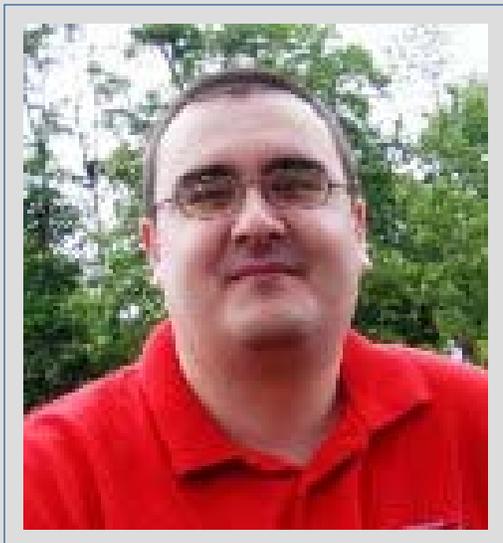
"Riverdale Museum!!"  
Riverdale Zoo - Cabbagetown Festival



"Nap Time"  
Orono Fair



"Yiks, that's one big horse!!!"  
Lindsay Exhibition



Jonathon Law  
Manager, Peterborough Concert Band

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### FOOD (Continued)

This can leave a "*bad taste*" (sorry for the awful pun) in visitors' mouths! However, a good example of how an event can "*win*" by having great food and vendors is the *Winona Peach Festival*. I have mentioned them before, but I think they are worth mentioning again. The food vendors at the *Winona Peach Festival* are local non-profit groups. The money they earn stays in the community. The food they serve is fresh, great tasting and they offer a good variety of healthy food. This festival's organizers and their food vendors have taken the time to do it right!

### WATER

It was great to see, at recent events, water stations. More and more events are using this method of providing water to their visitors, rather than selling plastic non-refillable water bottles. This is a great step towards less pollution and provides a fantastic service to *festival goers!*

## The Inside Scoop...

by Judi McWilliams

*Interview with the Jonathon Law, Manager, Peterborough Concert Band*

### Jon Law... Community Participant

The current *Manager* of the *Peterborough Concert Band* is *Jonathon Law*, who has been an active part of this group since January 2011. Music is not new to Jon, as he has been playing the trombone during his high school years. He also participated with the *Newmarket Concert Band* and several smaller groups. It is interesting that Jon was part of a festival that *Ontario Visited* owner, *Gary McWilliams* (aka *The Festival Nomad*), founded in the Port Hope area. *The Great Farini Festival* ran for three years in Port Hope back in 1998-1990 and included musical entertainment at several gala's held during the event. The *Newmarket Concert Band* made the journey to Port Hope and performed during the festival. A testament to Jon's strengths, as a contributor to community, is his innate nature of helping others. Before his concert, one year at *The Great Farini Festival*, there was an urgent dilemma. The organizers had not been able to find a "*human*" to wear the *Great Farini* costume.

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*The Inside Scoop...* from page 3

It required a tall slender person, who had the courage to walk around greeting visitors and "kids". The head of the costume was extremely large (*made of paper mashie*). Jon stepped right up to the plate and volunteered to wear the costume and "save the day"!

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

## Ontario Tales...

As I mentioned in last months newsletter, *Ontario Tales* is a new weekly Blog, dedicated to telling the stories of the people who pioneer this great Province of Ontario. My first three articles were about my own family and especially about my great grandfather who was a country doctor practising medicine just north of Cobourg in the small hamlet of Baltimore. When Judi and I moved to Cobourg, I decided to investigate my great grandfather through old newspapers. What I found out wasn't pretty! You can read about all I found out by visiting *Ontario Tales* at <http://ontarioheritagetales.blogspot.com/>.

In the meantime, I thought I would share the second story, which is about William Leonard Hunt, or as he is better know, *The Great Farini*. My Blog are based on the book, "*The Great Farini... The High-Wire Life of William Hunt*" by author Shane Peacock. Unfortunately this book is no longer in print, but, like me, you can purchase the book via the internet at [amazon.ca](http://amazon.ca).

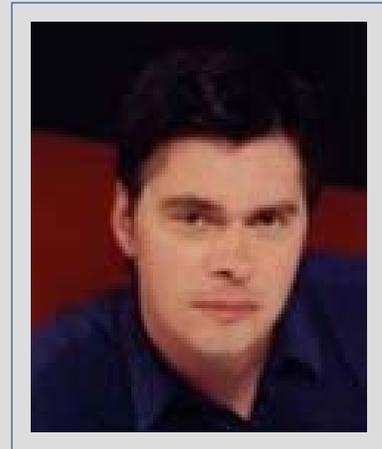
### The Lives of Farini Hunt... His Youth

Even as a youth growing up, *William Hunt* was full of energy and was always searching for adventure. His early years were spent first in Lockport, New York until he was 10 years old and then in Bowmanville, Ontario. Although Hunt's parents were very "respectable people", William had a rebellious streak. This showed up in Bowmanville when William and his friends were caught, during their "un-parent approved" circus demonstration, by *William's* father, who had interrupted the show and was in the process of giving *William* a beating. This punishment was interrupted by a neighbourhood lady who yelled, "He ought to be whipped until he can not stand! Give it to him! You wicked, sinful boy! You are the ruin of all the boys in town!" Undaunted, *William's* future dreams were visualized after sneaking in and watching a circus that came to Bowmanville.

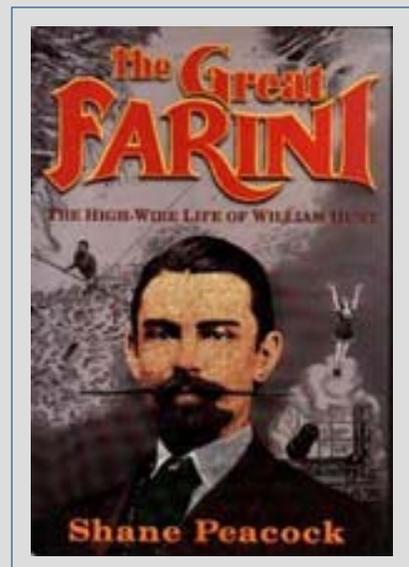
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"Jon in Concert"  
Peterborough Concert Band



Shane Peacock  
Biographer, Novelist, Playwright, Journalist,  
Screenwriter  
Author of *The Great Farini - The High-Wire Life of William Hunt*



"The Great Farini"  
by Shane Peacock



"Benjamin Fisher"

Author, Soldier & Festival Nomad Correspondent



"The Complete Soldier Re-enactor"  
Ben Fisher at Wasaga Under Siege

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Here is an excerpt from *Shane Peacock's* book ... "*Bill Hunt was beginning a day that would change his life. He not only met a famous show-business star and learned some of his secrets, but later, at great personal cost, sneaked into the big tent and actually saw the performance. From that day forward his life was infused with the bold spirit of the circus*". From Bowmanville the *Hunt* family moved back to Hope Township, to a farm that *Bill's* (as he was now called) father had purchased. It was here that Bill started to hone his athletic and acrobatic skills and ultimately taught himself to become a "*rope walker*". Through determined experimentation and constant practice, Bill increased his skills. It was in 1859 that *Bill* started to develop his "*imagined future*". Here is another excerpt from *Shane's* book ... "*As he approached his twenty-first birthday that summer, all he had been—a country boy from the Canadian backwoods, a medical student, an at-least-somewhat-respectable citizen—was about to die. A new persona was ready to surface. The greatest single impetus that created it came from the actions of a French acrobat. Late in June, Monsieur Blondin walked the greatest high wire in history, and the idea for Farini took root*".

NOTE: Mr. Peacock has written several books. His latest series is about "*The Boy Sherlock Holmes*". This is a wonderful look at the legendary *Sherlock Holmes*, in the beginning! To learn more about Shane and all of his works, please visit his website at [www.shanepeacock.ca](http://www.shanepeacock.ca).

## War of 1812 Celebrations Article

by Benjamin Fisher - *Festival Nomad Correspondent*

Day 1 Continued ...

Dear readers I am *Benjamin Fisher*. I am 12 years old and I am a *War of 1812 British re-enactor* from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. Re - enacting is probably the best hobby in the world. *Dave Cobbern*, more commonly known as "*rooster*", let me use his musket during the battle. I can't believe they trusted me to carry a gun. I felt truly honoured, and new that I had to be serious, and respect what these men were allowing me to do. I listened and followed their orders specifically. *Colin* watched over me during the battle to make sure I knew all the drills and movements. But after the first musket volley I felt like I was actually in the war. There was so much smoke in my nose and fogging the air around me and even though I was not allowed to shoot because I was under age - I was there and "*immersed in the experience*". When the battle was over, the day was pretty much over too. However, I had one more experience to the weekend left that day....sleeping in the historical re-enactors wedge tents. My mother agreed to stay with me overnight. It was amazing to see, hear, and live life of 1812.

To read more of Ben's article or to read other War of 1812 Celebrations articles, visit <http://warof1812celebrationnotes.blogspot.com/>.