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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 I Remember...
- 1 Festival Nomad's Report...
- 2 Inside Review - "Its Never Too Late..."
- 3 **THE INSIDE SCOOP**
- 4 INSIDE with the Festival Nomad

I Remember...

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

I bought a "*Remembrance Poppy*" today! I know that it's in honour of those who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy in Canada, and I appreciate the symbol. However, it brings to mind that November is a month for "*Remembering*". November 11th is the official "*Remembrance Day*", but what about the rest of the month? Couldn't it be a month of remembering our past loved ones? People we loved and admired? People who helped us and gave us hope? I know that we have anniversaries for those loved ones who have passed on, but what about all the others in our lives who have made a difference? Recently a friend, from a long time ago, died of a stroke. At the visitation a number of mutual friends were there. After the visitation we decided to go to a restaurant, not to mourn, but to "*remember*", to celebrate our friend's life. Unfortunately as we get older, more and more of our friends leave us. It's sad, but it's a fact of nature. So *November* is a perfect time to "*Remember*"! As I say, not only those who fought to give us freedom, but also to those who gave us life, who taught us, who befriended us. Let *November* be a "*celebration*"!

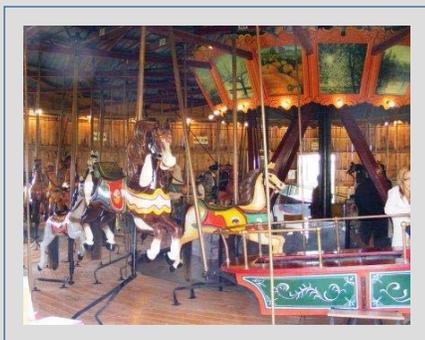
Some of you may ask why I am writing this type of article. What does this have to do with festivals and events, you might ask? The answer is simple ... life is an event, a continuous adventure. Some parts of life are well planned and some, not so much! But like most good festivals and events, it's all about family, good food and great fun! Here's to a wonderful "*event*" ... LIFE!



"Remembrance Day... Lest We Forget"
 November 11th

Festival Nomad's Report...

Fall Fairs have dominated the first part of *October*! On October 1st, *Festival Nomad Correspondent Kevin Stuart's* wife, *Joanne* and their son visited the *Roseneath Fair*. Roseneath is a quaint community located north of Cobourg. On the 2nd, Judi volunteered at *Lang Pioneer Village* at their annual *Applefest*. While Judi was at Lang, her sister, *Carol Law* (another great *Festival Nomad Correspondent*) visited *Blessfest* in Newmarket. *Carol* reports that this was a fun event with lots of pets to be blessed! The following weekend, *Thanksgiving Weekend*, found Judi and me, on Friday, visiting the *Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show* in Simcoe. Here we were able to enjoy a performance by Canadian country artist, *Terri Clark*. On the Sunday, *Kevin Stuart* and his family visited the *Norwood Fall Fair* and had a great time!



"Carousel"
 Roseneath Fair

Please see *Festival Nomad's Report...* on page 2

Festival Nomad's Report... from page 1

In the middle of the following week, I had the privilege of attending a new book launch by *Shane Peacock*. Shane is a wonderful Canadian author who has written several books. At the book launch he was introducing the fifth book, "*Dragon Turn*", in his "*The Boy Sherlock Holmes*" series. Shane is also the author of "*The Great Farini - the High-Wire Life of Farini Hunt*". I am using his book as a reference in my "*Ontario Tales*" Blog (Link: <http://ontarioheritagetales.blogspot.com>). The remainder of the month was fairly slow for me, as I was "*enjoying*" my first cold of the season! The month, however, ended with Judi once again volunteering at *Lang Pioneer Village* at their *Spooky Halloween*. *Kevin Stuart* and his family also visited this event and their re-visit article will be posted shortly.

Events in *November* that we and our *Festival Nomad Correspondents* hope to visit include:

November 12th - [Festival of Trees](#) (Kawartha Settles Village)

November 13th - [Royal Winter Fair](#) (Toronto)

November 19th - [Annual Swedish Christmas Fair](#) (Toronto Harbourfront Centre)

November 26th - "[Good Company](#)" [St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival Event](#) (Prescott)

November 26th - [Festival of Trees](#) (Peterborough) (Enjoy the Peterborough Concert Band performance at 3:00-4:00 p.m.)

To find out about other great November events, visit our *Ontario Event Finder* search engine at <http://ontariofestivalfinder.ontariofestivalsvisited.ca/> or our *Ontario Event Calendar* at <http://ontarioeventcalendar.ontariofestivalsvisited.ca/>

Inside Review...

"It's Never Too Late For A Parade!"

by Judi McWilliams

The crowds were lined up in the viewing area! They waited there in *anticipation*! Soon the sounds of a distant band floated through the air and reached the waiting crowd! Then the first of the Parade appeared! The crowd applauded and cheered! This was my first taste of a "*REAL*" Parade! I was 8 years old and my older sister (*by two years*), Carol, had organized the neighbourhood children in to a full fledge **PARADE**. She had created costumes, produced musical instruments (*Pots and Pans*) and had planned the parade route (*around the parameter of our large yard*)! She had also invited all our neighbours. She had "*persuaded*" them to attend, by offering them "*cool refreshments and sweet treats*", all on a **HOT** summer's afternoon! All this to the "*surprise*" of our mother!

Please see *Inside Review...* on page 3



"Event Organizer Lynn Perrier"
Blessfest - Newmarket



"Terri Clark"
Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show



"Kids Tractor Pull"
Norwood Fair



"Hi Santa!!"
Cobourg Santa Claus Parade (2008)



"Horse and Carriage"
Norwood Fall Fair Parade (2009)



"Walking the Parade"
Wellington Canada Day Parade (2010)

Inside Report... from page 2

The PARADE, however, went off without a hitch. All of us kids lined up in our proper pre-determined spots (*courtesy of Carol*). Then, on the order to march (*again courtesy of Carol*) we all began to move in unison! Well, as close to unison as a bunch of kids can do! It was a very serious affair. Even though, at first, we had no audience, we all felt the seriousness of the moment and marched in line as though the whole world was watching! We marched down one side of the property, across the front and then down the other side. Finally, we reached the back yard and the "REAL" parade began. We were so proud as we marched and banged our instruments! *I LOVE PARADES!* By the way, my sister, Carol, is now a member of the *Newmarket Citizens Band* and marches in all kinds of parades. She is also the "resident parade expert" for *Ontario Visited* and has written, as a *Festival Nomad Correspondent*, about a couple of Parade articles for us! Much more to follow!

Parades are held for many reasons and on many occasions. Fall and winter months are particularly active, fall fairs and festivals, Santa Claus Parades and so on. In fact, many parades happen, like our childhood parade, just because people want to have some fun! Over the years the Nomad and I have watched many parades. We have even participated in a few. As many of you know, I have been sharing "Festival Tips" with you over the past few years. In the next two issues of THE INSIDER I plan on sharing some of my favourite (*and not so favourite*) parade memories and even a few "watching" tips. Soooo, "strike up the band"!

Apart from my first "REAL" childhood parade, I think my most memorable parade to watch was the *Calgary Stampeded!* We were lucky, because we were visiting friends from Calgary, and they were able to get us reserved seats in one of the reviewing stands. I was amazed by the length of the parade and diversity of the participants. Horses and riders, decked out in their finest riggings, awesome floats, large marching bands, all added to the excitement of the event! This was a Parade at its best! Next month I will tell you about other memorable parades!

The Inside Scoop...

by Judi McWilliams

Interview with the Jan Bonhomme, Executive Director, St Lawrence 1812 Bicentennial Alliance

A Whole Lot of Experience...

For this *INSIDE SCOOP* article, I thought you would like to know a little about Jan Bonhomme, the *Executive Director* of the *St. Lawrence 1812 Bicentennial Alliance*.

Please see *The Inside Scoop...* on page 4

The Inside Scoop... from page 3

Jan shared with us the following, which just may be the most "insightful and useful" SCOOP you might have enjoy to date ... "I have spent the past 35 years planning events and working with volunteers in every way possible and have more "getting down and dirty stories" than anyone else I have ever met. My experience has also taught me how to do a lot with very little - limited facilities, limited funding and limited volunteers - what every small town in Ontario faces when staging successful events. My first 20 years was working in municipal recreation organizing sporting tournaments, jazz recitals, beach concerts, gymnastics meets, Canada Day etc. - a good lead up to the next ten years of my career. I then became the Event Co-ordinator for our local Chamber of Commerce with Port Elgin Pumpkinfest being my main responsibility. Playing a part in that event growing from 200 to 50,000 visitors taught me so much about the value of community involvement and volunteer efforts. At the same time, I also saw the benefits of all of our community groups sharing event supplies which led me to open the first Special Events Resource Centre in the province. The success of this facility then led to a position with Festivals and Events Ontario as their Network Development Manager, going across the province providing event training, and promoting the benefits of working together regionally. While in this position, my husband retired and we moved to the other end of the province - Eastern Ontario - where I was asked to co-ordinate the International Plowing Match in 2007 that was being staged in my new home town. After three years of putting my heart and soul into that massive event, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism & Culture started planning the 1812 Bicentennial and I was approached to lead the Eastern Ontario efforts. Throughout the past 20 years though, the highlight of my career has been going into small town Ontario sites and teaching volunteers learn how to stage successful events. I have visited more than 300 towns to date and hope to continue in this wonderful mentor role for the years to come".

To learn more about Jan Bonhomme, visit **THE INSIDE SCOOP** at <http://judisinsidescoop.blogspot.com/>.

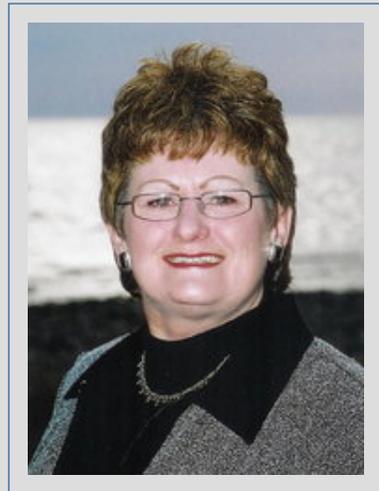
INSIDE with the Festival Nomad...

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!

Please see *INSIDE with the Festival Nomad...* on page 5



"Marching Band"
Trenton Scottish Irish Festival (2010)



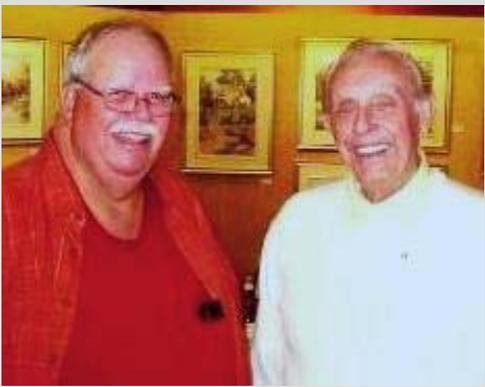
Jan Bonhomme
Executive Director
War of 1812 Bicentennial Alliance



"Jan poses with Interpreter"
Discovery Harbour - Penetanguishene



"Festival Nomad"
Gary McWilliams



"Gary with Edwin Matthews
at the Gallery-on-the-Lake"
Buckhorn Fine Art Festival (2007)



"Michael Dumas"
Buckhorn Fine Art Festival (2007)

INSIDE with the Festival Nomad... from page 4

Canadian Parks Partnership (Part One)

Planning For the National Presentation...

A number of years ago I worked for *Edwin Matthews*, who owned both the *Gallery-on-the-Lake* in Buckhorn and *Buckhorn Fine Art Publishing*. One of the projects I worked for with Ed, was with the *Canadian Parks Partnership*. This was the Federal Government's department that coordinated with all of the "Friends of" organizations for the *Federal Parks and Museums* across Canada. Ed and his star wildlife artist, *Michael Dumas*, had developed a series of prints that depicted Canadian wildlife. These prints were beautifully packaged and were going to be offered in Park and Museum stores across Canada. My job was to help promote these products to all of the "Parks Partners - Friends". To introduce this National program, the Federal Government decided that they would "kick" the program off in Banff. Edwin asked me if I would accompany Michael to Banff and the "kick-off" ceremonies. I, of course, was delighted to accept the offer. The ceremony was to be officiated by the then Federal Minister, *Lucian Bouchard*. *As described on Wikipedia, "In 1988, Bouchard returned to Canada to serve as Mulroney's Quebec lieutenant, and was elected as a Progressive Conservative from a Saguenay-area riding. He was immediately named to Cabinet as Secretary of State and later Minister of the Environment. While still a strong Quebec nationalist, he believed that Mulroney's Meech Lake Accord was sufficient to placate nationalist feelings and keep Quebec in Confederation. However, after a commission headed by Jean Charest recommended some changes to the Accord, Bouchard left the Progressive Conservatives in May 1990, feeling that the spirit and objectives of Meech were being diluted. Mulroney rejected his reasoning, later commenting that his most regrettable and costly error as Prime Minister was having trusted Bouchard. Bouchard sat as an independent for a few months. After the failure of the Meech Lake Accord, Bouchard formed the sovereigntist Bloc Québécois with five former Tories and two former Liberals."* Our airplane tickets were purchased, hotel reservations confirmed and automobile rented! *Everything was set!*

You can read the whole story by visiting "The Adventures of the Festival Nomad" Blog at

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

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