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Festival/Event Crashers...

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

We have all heard the term "party crashers" or "gate crashers"! Here's a new term, coined by my sister-in-law/come *Festival Correspondent Carol Law*. She's calling them, "**FESTIVAL CRASHERS**". *Carol* lives in *Newmarket* and covers festivals and events in that region for *Ontario Visited* websites. Lately she has noticed a lot of festivals and community organizations taking out booths at the festivals she has been visiting. This is *not* what she calls "crashers", these people have paid or have been invited to promote their festivals/organizations. What she has seen, and calls, "**FESTIVAL CRASHERS**" are outside organizers who come to an event (unannounced and uninvited) as a "visitor". Once inside the event, they proceed to stop at vendor booths to try to convince these vendors to exhibit at their "festival/event". In doing this these "crashers" quite often interrupt buying visitors thus taking away from potential clients from the participating vendors. When I first heard Carol talk about this, I was of two minds. At first I thought it was okay to "crash" an event but then, on further reflect, I thought it was in poor taste.

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Festival Nomad's Report...

The month of *July* is always very busy when it comes to festivals and events. We hope that you were able to enjoy as many as possible! Certainly the weather was great for the most part.

August is shaping up to be as busy as July. The following is a list of some of the great festivals and events in August. A more complete list can be found on both our [Ontario Event Calendar](#) and [Ontario Event Finder](#) (search engine) websites.

August - September ~ [Canadian War Museum - War of 1812 Exhibition \(Ottawa\)](#)

July 14 - August 18 ~ [St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival \(Prescott\)](#)

August 3 - 5 ~ [Aurora jazz+ Festival](#)

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"Festival Correspondent Carol Law" at the Schomberg Spring Fair



"Visit the War of 1812 Exhibition" at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa

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August 4 - 5 - [Collingwood Arts & Music Festival](#)

August 3 - 6 - [Kempfest \(Barrie\)](#)

August 4 - [Cadence - Westben Theatre \(Campbellford\)](#)

August 5 - [The Big Band Theory - Westben Theatre \(Campbellford\)](#)

August 4 - 6 - [Artisans at the Distillery \(Toronto\)](#)

August 10 - 12 - [Canal, Railway & Music Festival \(Smiths Falls\)](#)

August 7 - 10 - [1812 Soldier's Workshop - Lang Pioneer Village \(Keene\)](#)

August 17 - 19 - [Wasaga Under Siege \(Wasaga Beach\)](#)

August 17 - 19 - [Buckhorn Fine Art Festival](#)

August 17 - 19 - [Lindsay RibFest](#)

August 18 - [Peterborough Concert Band at the Buckhorn Fine Art Festival](#)

August 18 - 19 - [War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration - Lang Pioneer Village \(Keene\)](#)

August 24 - 26 - [The Attack on Gananoque](#)

August 30 - September 2 - [Quinte Exhibition \(Belleville\)](#)

August 31 - September 3 - [ArtFest \(Toronto\)](#)

September 2 - [Pioneer Corn Roast - Lang Pioneer Village \(Keene\)](#)

Remember: There are a lot more event to choose from... visit [Ontario Event Calendar](#) and [Ontario Event Finder](#) (search engine) to discover other Ontario events!

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It seemed to me that the organizers of the "crashed event" have spend a lot of time and effort to promote their event. To have others ("crashers") come in to "feed" off their hard work just didn't "feel" right. I know that a lot of event/festival organizers find vendors this way, but perhaps there is a better, more honest way of approaching the challenge. Asking for permission to approach their vendors might be more effective. That's my thought, what are yours? Let me know what you think, and I'll publish some of the results in a future issue.

War of 1812 Celebrations

"We Have Today... Reflections of Our Past..."

by Judi McWilliams

You may know that I have been on a quest for a few years to find out why "history" and "living history" is important and what kind of impact it has on our society today. Watching the opening of the 2012 *Summer Olympic Games* helped crystallize, in my mind, the importance of the paths walked by so many courageous generations before us. I believe it is important to slow down and reflect on our past by considering where we came from, including the how's and why's. What stands out for me are the people "United". People united in triumph and defeat; in wealth and poverty; in sickness and in health.

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"Battle Re-enactment"
Wasaga Under Siege - Wasaga Beach



"Dominion Day Battle"
at Lang Pioneer Village



"Sir John A. Macdonald - Canada's 1st Prime Minister"
Living History at Lang Pioneer Village



"Needlepoint on the Porch"
Living History at Fanshawe Pioneer Village
London



"Williams Lyon Mackenzie"
Rise to Rebellion at Georgian Pioneer
Village - Keswick



"Peerless II beside the M.V. Idyllwood"
Sunset Cruises - Muskoka

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At the time when citizens did courageous acts to defend their land, country, communities, they may not have conscientiously known the impact they were having on future generations. Today, we can instantaneously see the results of our efforts. This through both today's world-wide "24-hour" media and through the Internet's "real-time" technologies. What frightens me though is that our society is so instantaneous! We rush, rush, rush. Many decisions are made today without realizing the impact they will have on our future. I believe society needs to continue on the path of "united" generosity - in kindness, service and actions! I believe we all should reflect on our past - for without it, we would not be where we are today!

Speaking of "Reflecting on our Past" there are several great *War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebrations* taking place in August. [Wasaga Under Siege](#), organized by David Brunelle, runs from August 17th to August 19th. We have visited this event twice and have had a great time. If you like re-enactments, this is definitely a worth traveling to Wasaga Beach. Taking place on the same weekend, August 18 - 19, is *Lang Pioneer Village's War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration and 45th Anniversary Celebration*. A great deal of planning, by the Lang staff, has gone into this special event. I know that it will be spectacular. Judi and I hope that we will see you there! On the following weekend [The Attack on Gananoque](#) takes place. This event is being organized by *St. Lawrence War of 1812 Bicentennial Alliance* and is one of their 2012 "signature" events. This re-enactment commemorates the 1st U.S. attack on the St. Lawrence River, Gananoque, which took place on September 21, 1812. This is another "Make Sure You Mark It on Your Calendar" event!

Peerless II Now Sailing...

by Gary McWilliams

Judi's and my 29th wedding anniversary take place later this month. We had wanted to do something special, so we decided to take a cruise aboard *Sunset Cruises'* newly restored *Peerless II* and enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the Muskoka lakes. A few years ago we had the pleasure of taking a daytime cruise on the smaller *M.V. Idyllwood*. Now we are going to move up the much larger, *Peerless II* and to add interest and excitement, it is an evening "dinner cruises"! We can hardly wait. The *Peerless II* has been an ongoing "dream" and "nightmare" of *Sunset Cruises* owner, *Captain Randy Potts*. Randy has been working on this project, day and night, for many years. Judi and I have been fortunate to witness the progression over the past 4 or 5 years. Each time we have visited Randy and the *Peerless II*, we have been struck by the amount of work and ingenuity that has gone into the restoration of this magnificent ship. To find out more about the restoration of...

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the Peerless II, visit the Sunset Cruises website at <http://www.sunsetcruises.ca/pages/about.html>. If you are interested in seeing different parts of the Muskoka lakes not normally seen on the larger ships, Captain Randy can take you there, to enjoy spectacular views of *Lakes Joseph, Rosseau & Muskoka*. *Captain Randy Potts* lively and informative Muskoka lake tales are second to none! His knowledge of the history and the people of these lakes is legendary! We can hardly wait for our anniversary to come!

THE INSIDE SCOOP

by Judi McWilliams

Excerpt of my Interview with Judy MCWHIRTER - BUCKHORN COMMUNITY CENTRE Celebrating 35 Years...

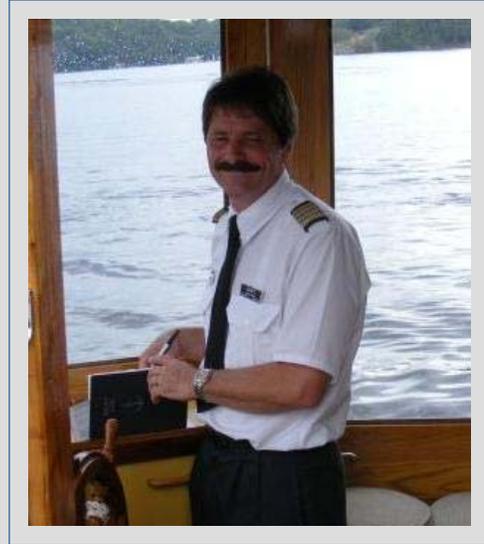
"Keep Smilin" ... "**THE INSIDE SCOOP**" finishes our interview with *Judy McWhirter*, Manager of the *Buckhorn Community Centre*. During my interview with you *Judy*, I will be writing (to enlighten *Ontario Visited* website visitors) some brief information about some of the signature events held at the *Buckhorn Community Centre*, particularly for this edition of **THE INSIDE SCOOP**? *"The Buckhorn Community Centre offers a wide range of major fund-raising activities throughout the year. Checkout our EVENTS CALENDAR regularly for upcoming events. As a not-for-profit organization, the BCC depends on these activities to meet its operating budget each year."*

I asked *Ms. McWhirter* how does the *Buckhorn Community Centre* "keep things fresh" for the patrons and vendors? We learn here that ... *"Well, I think the vendors with improvements at the BCC and know that we are working keeping the BCC up-to-date, making sure that there is always something new."*

One question I like to ask festival/events I asked *Judy* ... *"Why do you think the Buckhorn Community Centre is an important part of our society and the community today and what role do you see as its importance? She replies ... "The BCC is a meeting place, gathering groups, holding activities. It's a great place for events as it is unique. For residents and cottagers it is a great way to join a centre and get involved, meet new people and contribute to your area."*

With the economic challenges today, it would seem it critical to obtain/maintain Sponsor funding and Other Sources of funding. How you go about obtain funding? *Judy* tells us ... *"We actually do not have a lot of sponsors, we are rural. We are always looking for Grants."*

Over the course of the year, I am collecting some anecdotes to publish. I asked *Judy* if she something you would like to share in our **THE INSIDE SCOOP** special "anecdote" edition? Simply she replied ... *"Keep Smilin"!*



"Captain Randy Potts - Peerless II"
Sunset Cruise - Muskoka



"Artist Michael Dumas at the Buckhorn Fine Art Festival"
Buckhorn Community Centre - Buckhorn

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