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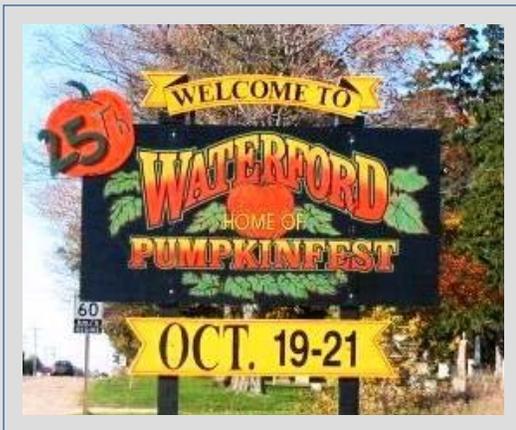
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## Too Good to Go...

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

This past weekend Judi and I attended a great "Birthday Bash" for a very good friend. At the party we met a couple from Waterford. A few years ago, Judi and I visited the "Waterford Pumpkin Festival". Frankly, it was one of the best events we attended that year! What surprised me the most, about the event, was how much the community's residents embraced the event by decorating their homes and businesses! It made the whole community come alive! As I talked to the Waterford couple, I was extremely surprised and disappointed that this might be the festivals last year! The couple, who told me that they were really involved in the event, said that the reason that the event might stop is that it's present volunteers were getting tired and that no new volunteers were stepping forward to help take it over. Unfortunately this seems to be happening to far too many long time events. It is very sad and discouraging when this happens. As I have said before, festivals and events are the life blood of our communities. Many events actually define the communities they are held in. I think that the *Waterford Pumpkin Festival* is one of these events. I hope that the community residents and the present volunteers can rally together to make the Pumpkinfest continue and become stronger and long lasting.

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["Waterford Pumpkin Festival ~ 2007"](#)  
[Waterford, Ontario](#)

## Festival Nomad's Report...

The month of *August* was very active with plenty of festival and events taking place throughout the month!

*September* will be just as busy, especially with the number of fall fairs that are planned. The following is a list of some of the great festivals and events in September. A more complete list can be found on both our [Ontario Event Calendar](#) and [Ontario Event Finder](#) (search engine) websites.

*August 2012 - January 6, 2013* - [War of 1812 Exhibition](#) (Canadian War Museum, Ottawa)

*August 2012 - October 2012* - [Sunset Cruises](#) (Muskoka)

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

*August 31 - September 3* - [Artfest Toronto](#)

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["Visit the War of 1812 Exhibition"](#)  
[at the Canadian War Museum](#)  
[in Ottawa](#)

*Festival Nomad's Report* page 1

September 2 - [Pioneer Corn Roast](#) (Lang Pioneer Village, Keene)  
 September 7 - 9 - [Southside Shuffle Blues + Jazz Festival](#) (Mississauga)  
 September 7 - 9 - [Picton Fair](#)  
 September 7 - 9 - [Georgetown Fair](#)  
 September 7 - 9 - [Quilting at the Lakes](#) (Buckhorn Community Centre)  
 September 7 - 8 - [Trenton Scottish Irish Festival](#)  
 September 8 - 9 - [Cabbagetown Festival](#) (Toronto)  
 September 13 - 15 - [New Liskeard Fall Fair](#)  
 September 14 - 15 - [Jazz & Blues in the Village](#) (Sarnia)  
 September 14 - 15 - [Heritage Celebration in Story & Song](#) (Lang Pioneer Village, Keene)  
 September 14 - 16 - [Port Hope Fall Fair](#)  
 September 14 - 16 - [Beaverton Fall Fair](#)  
 September 14 - 16 - [Binbrook Fair](#)  
 September 14 - 15 - [Festival at Fort Willow](#) (near Barrie)  
 September 18 - 22 - [International Plowing Match](#) (Roseville)  
 September 19 - 23 - [Lindsay Exhibition](#)  
 September 20 - 23 - [Ancaster Fair](#)  
 September 21 - 22 - [Heritage Celebration in Story & Song](#) (Lang Pioneer Village, Keene)  
 September 22 - 23 - [Gourd & Creative Art Show](#) (Buckhorn Community Centre)  
 September 27 - 30 - [Barrie Fair](#) (Thornton)  
 September 29 - [ColourFest](#) (Haliburton)  
 September 30 - [Applefest](#) (Lang Pioneer Village, Keene)  
 October 2 - 8 - [Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show](#) (Simcoe)  
 October 6 - 7 - [Buckhorn Pumpkin Festival](#) (Buckhorn Berry Farm)  
 October 6 - 8 - [Norwood Fall Fair](#)  
 October 6 - 8 - [Harvest Craft Show](#) (Buckhorn Community Centre)

**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!

*Too Good to Go...* page 1

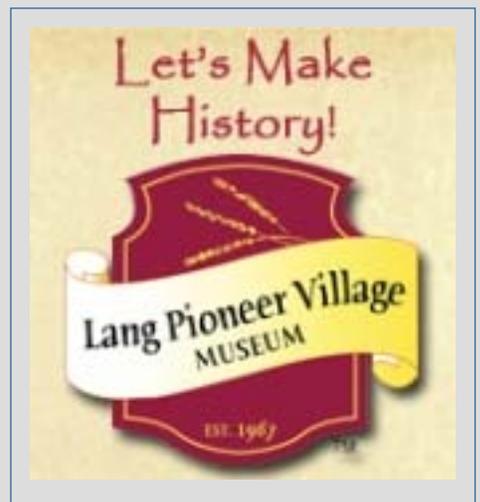
Communities, such as Waterford, need to continue successful events! On another point of disappointment, I find it hard to believe that some successful events are not receiving the full co-operation of their community representatives. It seems to me that working together benefits a community and its' residents, far more than constant turmoil. Like I said above, festivals and events are important and need to be nurtured and cultivated!



*"Southside Shuffle Blues + Jazz Festival" Port Credit (Mississauga)*



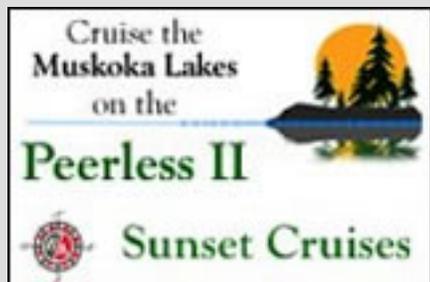
*"Cabbagetown Festival" Toronto*



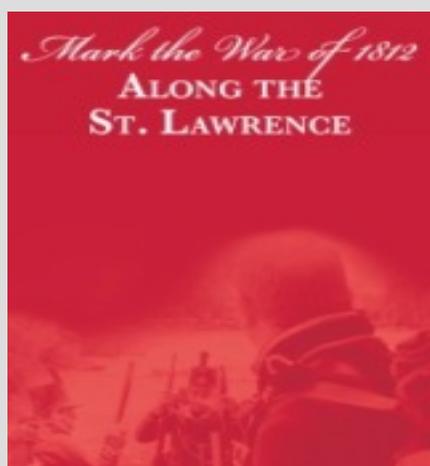
*"Pioneer Corn Roast & Applefest" at Lang Pioneer Village, Keene*



["Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show"](#)  
[Simcoe](#)



["Peerless II"](#)  
[at Sunset Cruises, Muskoka](#)



["St. Lawrence 1812 Bicentennial Alliance"](#)  
[St. Lawrence Waterway](#)



["Lindsay Exhibition"](#)  
[Lindsay](#)

## War of 1812 Celebrations

*"Report on War of 1812 Activities in the St. Lawrence Region "*

by Jan Bonhomme, St. Lawrence 1812 Alliance Correspondent

The War of 1812 Bicentennial commemorations have been planned for the next 3 years but in the St. Lawrence River region of Ontario, celebrating our roots has already kicked off in a big way. During the month of June, not one but four major bicentennial events were offered back to back to visitors and all offered a quality heritage experience in a totally different way! The St. Lawrence 1812 Alliance promotion of these events must have worked because thousands of visitors attended and reports call the events a smashing success.

June started out with the Spencerville Heritage Fair who offered a true heritage experience for all walks of life. Political re-enactments, a settler's alley, a regency ball, a real life historical wedding, heritage performers and military re-enactments turned this small town into a glance from the past. But the highlight of the day was having over 280 individuals dressed in regency costumes attempting to break the Guinness world record for the number of people dressed in period clothing. Both young and old, male and female came out in droves in heritage finery making the small town of Spencerville truly proud of its attempt and its commitment to celebrating the past.

Visit our [War of 1812 Celebrations Event Calendar](#) to discover more exciting War of 1812 events or read the most recent issue of our [War of 1812 Newsletter](#).

## THE INSIDE SCOOP

by Judi McWilliams

I have been very busy this past summer interviewing many interesting organizers, leader in the industry for festivals/events/communities/heritage and more. A few excerpts are as below:

**THE INSIDE SCOOP** is fortunate to obtain interesting **SCOOP** from *Donna Stewart, Jazz & Blues in the Village, Festival Director* and the *Committee*. This year the *Festival* takes place September 14 & 15<sup>th</sup> in *McGibbon Park, Sarnia*. I wanted to share with you a little about this wonderful event. ... "*Jazz & Blues in the Village is not just music in a park but is "a unique experience" as we invite people to "come and party under our tent"*.

I asked the *Committee*, how important is the "*Jazz & Blues in the Village*" focus of *SODA* aspect of this festival and how does it impact our society today? Otherwise stated ... Why do you think *Jazz & Blues in the Village* is an important part of our society and the community today and what role do you see as its importance?

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THE INSIDE SCOOP page 3

The reply ... *"The importance of organ/tissue donation and transplantation continues to increase. Jazz and Blues in the Village has allowed SODA to bring this important issue before the people of our community and the surrounding areas. It uses music to connect to people of all ages and to spread the message about this important issue. The Sarnia/Lambton donor registration rate has grown well above the Ontario average of 21% to 38%. During each festival we honour donors, recipients, those on waiting lists and medical professionals through our opening ceremony. A candle lit during the opening ceremony burns during the festival."*

*"Key to Success", I asked the Committee what they attributed the success of Jazz & Blues in the Village to. Their "key to success" ... "We attribute our success to the consistently high calibre of performers, good food, dedicated volunteers, sponsors and the up close and personal feel of the festival. To quote attendees "the festival has never disappointed, it is always a great party" (check out their website at <http://www.jazzinthevillage.com/>)*

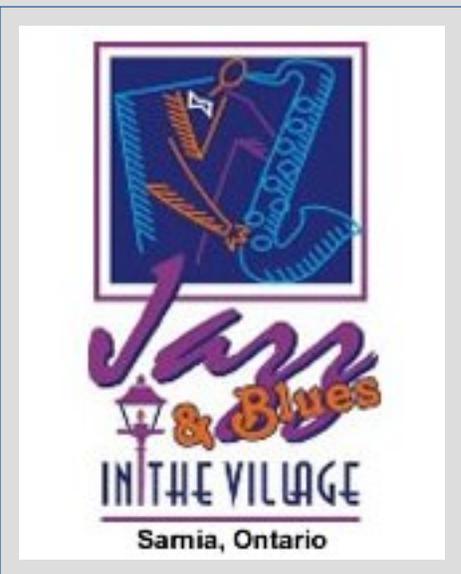
For my next **SCOOP**, I spoke with Donna Bennett, Marketing Director, soprano, and pianist/composer for the Westben Arts Festival Theatre, located in Campbellford. Many times I like to find the **SCOOP** about how festivals/events "keep things fresh" for the patrons and actors? I know many festivals/events offer visitors/participants like new fresh healthy choice foods, shaded rest areas, cool water sources and such. Donna tells us ... *"This is always a challenge. We try to do something new - an upgrade on site every season - this year we have a new trailer of flush washrooms - thanks to Celebrate Ontario and Brian always keeps the programming fresh and interesting."* A comforting and welcomed new upgrade indeed! I was wondering what advice you might give to others in the field that may just be starting out, **THE INSIDE SCOOP** as it were? Excellent answer from Donna ... *"Follow your heart and plan, plan, plan. Give to your community". (Check out their website at [www.westben.ca](http://www.westben.ca))*

I have been able to collect for **THE INSIDE SCOOP** some special "anecdotes" from some amazing people. I was able to interview Judy MCWHIRTER - BUCKHORN COMMUNITY CENTRE, Celebrating 35 Years. Simply Judy replied. "Keep Smilin"! For many festivals and events, it is critical to have volunteers! I said to Judy. "You have a wonderful program available and in place Judy, congratulations! I asked Ms. McWhirter what she attributes the success and longevity the Buckhorn Community Centre. She replies ... "Our volunteers are awesome and dedicated to the BCC's success". I asked Judy if she could share with us some techniques on managing so many volunteers. She states ... "Always, Always, Always have coffee breaks, water, and snacks and feed them!" Also ... "You can never say thank you enough!"

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*"International Plowing Match & Rural Expo"*  
[Roseville](#)



*"Jazz & Blues in the Village"*  
[Sarnia](#)

#### [Ontario Visited](#)

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"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." (Check out their website at <http://www.buckhorncommunitycentre.com/>)

(Please check out the full Blog Articles at **THE INSIDE SCOOP** at <http://judisinsidescoop.blogspot.ca/>)



"Seating with Chuck and Flo ~ Cobourg"



"Standing with Chuck ~ Cobourg Harbour"

## Tribute...

by Gary McWilliams

A few months ago my brother, Chuck, passed away as a result a five year battle with Cancer. I am writing this "Tribute", not to mourn Chucks passing, but to celebrate his life. Chuck was 10 years older then me, so my memory of started when I was very "little" and he was "very big"! That's what he looked like to me back then! When we growing up, we shared a bedroom. We had bunk beds, with me on the top bed and Chuck on the bottom. He thought that he was the winner of the bed battle, but more often then not, I stepped on his head as I climbed out of bed. He and my sister (Marion, 12 years older then me) got me back by telling me to call my father "baldy". Our Dad didn't have too much hair back then! He quickly hauled me into the bathroom and gave me "heck". Chuck and Marion had a great laugh, but I don't think it lasted too long, because my father figured out who put "Young Gary" up to the comment! We did have a lot of fun as we were all growing up, but with my brother and sisters being so much older than me, most of my young memories don't involve them. However, my brother always seemed bigger that life to me. He was involved in so many things. Most of them involved sports or "high" adventure. I think that he likely achieved most of his "bucket" list. Here's a list of some of his experiences. He was an experienced pilot and owned a number of planes. One of the planes he owned was a "Harvard". This was a WWII trainer plane and one that he flew in formation with 3 other Harvard owners. They participated in many *Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum* air shows. One of Chuck's best friends, Dennis Bradley, was one of the founders of the museum. Chuck was member number 5 or 6 of the museum. With Dennis and Dennis' son, he also participated in a number of power boat races in both Canada and the United States. Other adventures included playing Rugby and getting his bad knee kicked out from under him; helping his friend, Bobby Leyden compile statistics for the Toronto Argonaut Football team and skydiving to prove that he could! Chuck also liked to travel. He attended many NASCAR races. Attending the last NASCAR race of the season, in Homestead, Florida, was a tradition for many years. One year he traveled to Hong Kong and spent New Years Even there. He scuba dived in the Galapagos Islands. To say the least, Chuck had a very full life. Later in life he sold the Insurance Brokerage that he had helped build and retired from city life (Toronto) to rural life (Wellington). In Wellington he found peace and the ultimate love of his life, Flo. He also discovered a wonderful community and became deeply involved in it. His legacy can be found in the park he helped renovate along with his friends at the Wellington Rotary Club. Memories of Chuck's involvement can heard from members of the United Church or volunteers of the Prince Edward County Pumpkin Festival. Chuck, the one with the truck, hauled the Rotary's pumpkin float and then hurried over the pumpkin weighing station to help find the "BIG ONE"! There many other stories I could tell, but if Chuck were here he would wave his hand and tell me to "stop". He didn't like to talk about himself. I'll miss him, my big brother!