



Ontario Visited, P.O. Box 272, Cobourg, ON, K9A 4K8, Canada
 www.ontariovisited.ca gary@ontariovisited.ca (888) 818-0255

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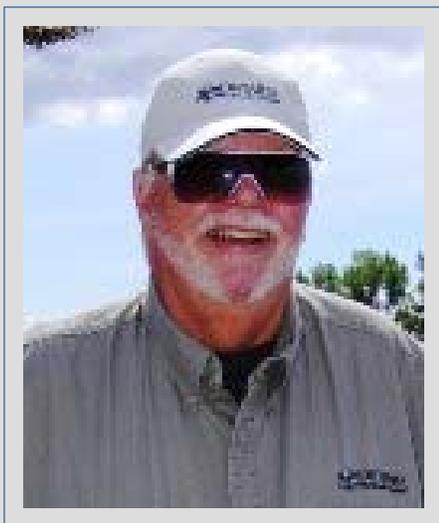
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Opportunities Missed...

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

A few weeks ago I was talking to a friend of mine about volunteers and how communities treat them. We both agreed that most communities really appreciate their volunteers and treat them with great respect! The conversation then turned to some of the negative experiences that we had both seen and heard. We talked about an experience I had heard about and, unfortunately, became involved in. I had read a newspaper article about a conflict between a few town councilors and festival committee members. As a result of that story, I wrote an article about the apparent conflict. Somehow the article was read by the council members involved in the dispute and they tried to drag me into the conflict. Their facts about the whole conflict were inaccurate, as was their assumptions about my article. The ultimate problem with this whole dispute was that councilors, rather than working with the festival organizers and getting their facts straight, decided to continue the confrontation. Fortunately the committee members were able to rise above the dispute and went on to organize another very successful event. After describing my experience, my friend told me about hers. She had worked hard for a particular community and had been able to secure substantial grant money for their community project.

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"The Festival Nomad"
Gary McWilliams

Festival Nomad's Report...

September was certainly the month for Fall Fairs. Towns such as Belleville (Quinte), Picton, Georgetown, Port Hope, Beaverton and New Liskeard all held them! And, fall colours are starting to take over landscapes.

It's not surprising then, that *October* continues to be filled with Fall Fairs and Pumpkin Festivals. The following is a list of some Fall Fairs and festivals and events taking place this month. We hope that you and your family take advantage of this glorious time of the year.

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

October 2 - 8, 2012 - [Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show](#) (Simcoe)

October 2 - 7 - [Buckhorn Pumpkin Festival](#) (Buckhorn Berry Farm)

October 5 - 13 - [Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest](#)

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

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October 6 - 8 - [Norwood Fall Fair](#)

October 6 - 8 - [Harvest Craft Show](#) (Buckhorn Community Centre)

October 6 - 8 - [Thanksgiving in the Village](#) (Fanshawe Pioneer Village - London)

October 11 -14 - [Merrickville Jazz Festival](#)

October 12 - 14 - [Waterford Pumpkinfest](#)

October 13 - 14 - [Buckhorn Pumpkin Festival](#) (Buckhorn Berry Farm)

October 20 - [2012 Blessfest](#) (Newmarket)

October 19 -20 - [Spooky Halloween](#) (Lang Pioneer Village - Keene)

October 19 - 21 - [Kingsville's Migration Festival](#)

October 20 - 21 - [Buckhorn Pumpkin Festival](#) (Buckhorn/McLean Berry Farm)

October 26 -27 - [Spooky Halloween](#) (Lang Pioneer Village - Keene)

October 27 - 28 - [The Player's Advice to Shakespeare](#) (St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival - Prescott)

October 27 - 28 - [Buckhorn Pumpkin Festival](#) (Buckhorn Berry Farm)

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!

Opportunities Missed.. page 1

After the grant money had been awarded, a new town council had been elected. You might have expected that the newly elected council would have been very appreciative of my friend's contributions, but, for some reason, the new mayor resented my friend's help as a volunteer and made it difficult for her to extend further help to community staff and to community event volunteers.

In both of the above cases, each community alienated its volunteers and as a result, "*Opportunities were Missed*". In the first case, the volunteers' energies were spent defending their event. The town and its council lost the respect of community leaders and volunteers. Valuable time, efforts and resources were wasted by all those involved. In the second case, the community lost the support of a very talented volunteer, one who had helped many communities raise millions of dollars. These are only two examples of conflict that can happen between town councilor/staff and festival/event volunteers. They are counter productive and have no place, especially in these difficult times. As I have said before, community festivals/events are very important to their communities and residents. They bring both recognition and pride to the communities they serve. They also attract much needed dollars to local businesses and to non-profit charities within their communities. Rather than looking for ways to oppose volunteers and their efforts, towns should be looking for ways to support and help! By doing this, there won't be "*Opportunities Missed*"!



"4-Horse Wagon"
Norwood Fall Fair



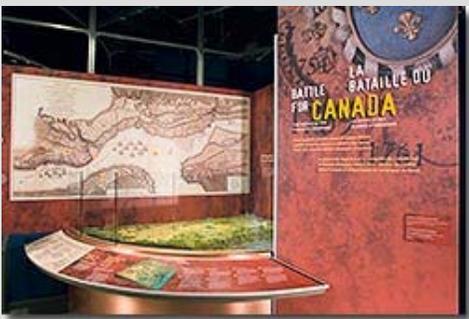
"A Whole Lot of Pumpkins!"
Buckhorn Pumpkin Festival



"I Need Food!!!"
Blessfest, Newmarket



"Canadian War Museum - Exterior"
Photo Courtesy - Canadian War Museum
Photo Credit: Harry Foster, CMC



"Canadian War Museum - Interior"
Photo Courtesy - Canadian War Museum
Photo Credit: Marie-Louise Deruaz, CMC



"Officer's Coatee, Major General Sir Isaac Brock"
Photo Courtesy - Canadian War Museum
Photo Credit: CWM19670070-009

Canadian War Museum

"Capturing the Essence... Your Own Perspective..."

by Judi McWilliams

During a recent visit to Ottawa, *Ontario Visited* had the privilege of spending some time speaking with *Mr. Peter MacLeod, Historian, Pre-Confederation* with the *Canadian War Museum*. *"The Canadian War Museum is Canada's national museum of military history. Its mission is to promote public understanding of Canada's military history in its personal, national, and international dimensions."*

Over the years, *Ontario Visited* has visited many *"Live re-enactments"*, *"Living History Museums"* and *"Pioneer Villages & Museums"*. During that period, I have been researching *War of 1812* historical events. As a result, I interviewed many organizers and participants of these historical events, written articles about the *"Characters of the War of 1812"*, *"The Importance of Living History"*, *"War of 1812 - Big in Canada"*, *"Controversial Topics"*, *"200 Years of Peace"*, *"Authenticity"* and more ...

During our interview with *Mr. Peter MacLeod*, it became apparent that all of my efforts were formed from the research and information presented to me. At the beginning of my *"Historical"* journey, I thought *'History'* was boring. However, since then, I have found just how wrong I was. It is anything but boring. The interview with Peter crystallized just how many *"perspectives"* there are ... and as stated by *Mr. MacLeod*, *"you can't fail at your own perspective"*.

Please see *Canadian War Museum...* on page 4

Fall Fair Report...

by Gary McWilliams

As mentioned in the *Nomad's Report*, September and October are known as Fall Fair months and our Festival Correspondents had a great time visiting some of them. Although the [Canadian National Exhibition](#) starts in August, it always ends in September. It really is the kick-off to the fall fairs. Festival Correspondent, Kevin Stuart and his family, traveled to Toronto for this fabulous event. They had a great adventure at the Ex! Another fall fair visited in September was the [Western Fair District](#) in London. This event was attended by Festival Correspondent Don Martin and his family. Kevin Stuart and his family also visited the [Port Hope Fall Fair](#). Kevin reports that it was a great success. The final event visited in September was the [International Plowing Match](#) held, this year, in the Waterloo Region. Festival Correspondent Anne Brooks and her sister, Emma, report that they had a great time. In October there are two fall fairs that we hope to visit.

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Canadian War Museum page 3

Although, *"History is History"*! The *Canadian War Museum* is perhaps the most amazing experience I have had in a long while. The spacious museum allows you the opportunity to travel through time, learn, observe, and formulate your own opinions, conclusions and perspectives. What I learned by visiting the *Canadian War Museum* is that there is a big difference between *"Living History"* and *"Museums"*. *"Historians are Historians"* and *"Re-enactors are re-enactors"*. There is no failing, there is no right or wrong. This was especially true after Gary and I took the *War of 1812 Exhibitions "perspective"* survey. Even though our answers were much different than the general on-line consensus, Peter McLeod assured us that everyone's "perspective" was correct. It is just a matter of how History were perceived. There are opportunities to discover and explore our heritage and the *Canadian War Museum - War of 1812 Exhibition* helps fill in many details.... It was a wonderful experience that I encourage all to participate in.

You really can't offend people as history is history. You can't repeat it exactly either. You can interpret it in your own way. As the *Canadian War Museum* tells us ... *"One of the key lessons we hope that visitors draw from coming to our exhibition is the importance of perspective, and allowing that one event may be experienced from multiple perspectives. We introduce this concept at the beginning of our exhibition, as you point out in the question below. By allowing visitors to experience the exhibition from the four perspectives, we leave it to visitors to form their own opinions about what matters to them."* Mr. MacLeod tells us that *their goal was to give each visitor the experience to feel at home; to explore and discover their own history and come to their own conclusions. It is not all about the Invasions of Canada or the origins of the War, but that of all of us, inclusively worked together to defend Canada.*

A quote from the *CWM* ... *"Living history sites attempt to recreate the past for visitors; museums bring visitors in touch with the past primarily (but not exclusively) through the display of artifacts. The Canadian War Museum goes to great lengths to develop appealing visitor experiences that enhance our educational role, including interactive kiosks and in-gallery activities that tie in historical elements."* During our interview, Mr. MacLeod stated that it is important for everyone to know who they are, where they came from, to identify in a practical way. He tells us *"identity and self knowledge is important"*. The *"Core Message is always there"*. Mr. MacLeod states it is important to *"narrate this Historical Event with INCLUSION in Mind!"* I say ... *Tourism ... History Our past Our future!*



"World War I - Trench Newspaper"
Photo Courtesy - Canadian War Museum
Photo Credit: CWM19920085-386



World War II - HMCS Snowberry (Canadian Corvette)
Photo Courtesy - Canadian War Museum
Photo Credit: George Metcalf Archival Collection
CW19830156-065



Afghanistan War - Canadian Soldiers
Photo Courtesy - Canadian War Museum
Photo Credit: Stephen Thorne
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EVENT TRAINING SESSIONS

"We provide overall event training or specific sessions including ~ Staging Successful Small Town Events, Developing Your Theme, Marketing & Branding, Understanding & Accessing Grants & More."

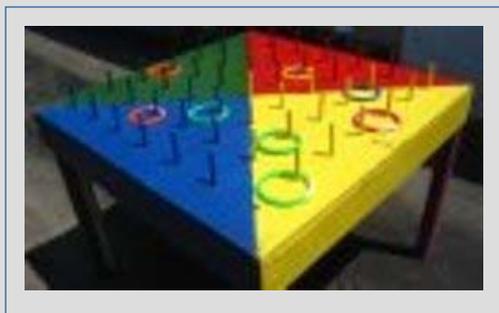
Visit Our Website For Further Information

Click HERE

"Event Training Sessions"
Eastern Ontario Events Centre



"Event Set-Up Equipment"
Eastern Ontario Events Centre



"Children's Games"
Eastern Ontario Events Centre

The first is the [Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show](#) held in Simcoe. Festival Correspondent, Chris Spraakman, is scheduled to attend this one. We know that he will really enjoy this event. The other fair we hope to visit is the [Norwood Fall Fair](#). This is a wonder fall fair located rurally near Peterborough. This is one that Judi and I hope to attend. We'll let you know!

It is amazing how many wonder Ontario fairs are held each year. The bad news is that we can only visit a few each year!!! The good news is that we will be occupied visiting new ones for many years to come!!!

Eastern Ontario Events Centre...

by Gary McWilliams

A few weeks ago we traveled to Ottawa to attend a meeting at the Canadian War Museum. On the way we stopped in Portland to visit our friend, Jan Bonhomme. Jan, as some of you, has been heavy involved in the festival and event industry for many 1years. She has even been inducted into the Festivals & Events Ontario's (FEO) [Hall of Fame!](#) Jan's newest project is the [Eastern Ontario Events Centre](#). The Centre will be offering its services, event equipment rentals and event training, to festivals and events located in the eastern part of Ontario. The boundaries are not exact, but since festival/event organizers will have to pick up event materials from Brockville area, time and gas will rule the boundaries. If you visit the Centre's website, you can see how extensive a collection of event equipment they have available. [Equipment categories](#) have been divided into 6 sections - *Safety & Communications, Signage, Site Set-Up, Gates, Miscellaneous Items and Children's Games*. By the way, the Centre is always looking for equipment donations! The *Eastern Ontario Events Centre* is also offering [Event Training Sessions](#). Sessions can be held in the Centre's training venue or at a location of your choice. Training Sessions include *Staging Successful Small Town Events, Paying the Bills and More, Developing Your Theme to the Fullest, Marketing & Branding, Getting the Gates Opened Safely and Understanding & Assessing Grants*. Unlike the rental of event equipment, event training is available to **all** Ontario festival/event organizers. You are best to contact the Centre for further information. All-in-all, the Centre is a wonderful (and much needed) addition to festivals and events in Eastern Ontario.



[Ontario Visited](#)

P.O. Box 272
Cobourg, ON K9A 4K8 CANADA
Phone/Fax:
1-888-818-0255
E-mail:
gary@ontariovisited.ca