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## Great Events ~ Time Out...

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

I have just learned about three great events that are "taking a time out", "Bayfest" in Sarnia, "CFC Worldwide Short Film Festival" in Toronto and "Ode'min Giizi Festival" in Peterborough. All are successful events that have been operating for some time. I am sure they are not the only events "taking a time out". To me, it shows the great effort that organizers take to keep their events "fresh" and "solvent". If you have been involved as a volunteer, especially as an organizer, you've experienced this sometime, "gut wrenching", part of "putting on" a festival. Judi and I certainly appreciate all the efforts that go into the organizing of a special event. All too often this aspect of event building is missed by the critics. This is especially true with today's economy as it is! The truth, as I have said many times, is that these events are the lifeblood of our communities and the efforts of all the volunteers and organizers should be honoured by their communities! As Judi and I travel around the Province this year, I know that we will encounter these wonderful community builders. We hope that when you visit an event you will acknowledge these dedicated volunteers. Without them Ontario, Canada, the World, would be a poorer place to live!

## Festival Nomad's Report...

As reported in last month's newsletter, *March* was certainly the month of Maple Syrup Festivals. Judi and I visited two, *Maple In The County* located throughout *Prince Edward County* and the *Buckhorn Maple Syrup Festival*, located at the *McLean Berry Farm*. Both were excellent events!

In *April* there will be even more of these wonderful festivals. In fact, Judi and I hope to re-visit the first event that we visited as "Festival Nomads", the [Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival](#), to be held this year on Saturday, April 20th. Perhaps we'll see you there! In the meantime, here are some of the events taking place in April.

April 1 - 7, 2013 ~ [Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival](#) (Kortright Centre & Bruce's Mill)

April 6, 2013 ~ [Macbeth](#) (St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, Prescott)

April 6, 2013 ~ [Elmira Maple Syrup Festival](#) (Elmira)

April 6 - 7, 2013 ~ [Swan Weekend](#) (Stratford)

April 6 - 7, 2013 ~ [Lindsay Model Railway Show](#) (Lindsay)

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



[Bayfest - Sarnia](#)



[Maple In The County - Prince Edward County](#)

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April 6 - October 27, 2013 ~ [Our Betters](#) (Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the Lake)

April 10 - 27, 2013 ~ [Annual Juried Art Show](#) - BMFA (Collingwood)

April 12 - 13, 2013 ~ [Eat & Drink Norfolk](#) (Norfolk County Fair, Simcoe)

April 12 - 14, 2013 ~ [Peterborough Garden Show](#) (Peterborough)

April 12 - 14, 2013 ~ [Aylmer Home & Garden Show](#) (Aylmer)

April 12 - 14, 2013 ~ [Niagara indie Film Fest](#) (St. Catharines)

April 13, 2013 ~ [Paris Lions Club Maple Syrup Festival](#) (Paris)

April 13 -14, 2013 ~ [Requiem for a Millenium](#) (Westben Arts Festival Theatre, Campbellford)

April 12, 2013 - October 12, 2013 ~ [Guys and Dolls](#) (Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the Lake)

April 20 -21, 2013 ~ [Yours Ever, Jane](#) (St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, Prescott)

April 20 - 21, 2013 ~ [Delta Maple Syrup Festival](#) (Delta)

April 20 - 21, 2013 ~ [Elora Antique Show and Sale](#) (Elora)

April 21, 2013 ~ [HOLLYWOOD: Tribute to Michael Buble](#) (Jazz & Blues in the Village, Sarnia)

April 23, 2013 ~ [Fiddler on the Roof](#) (Stratford Festival, Stratford)

April 24 - 28, 2013 ~ [Don Valley Art Club Spring Art Show & Sale](#) (Toronto)

April 25 - 30, 2013 ~ [Ottawa International Writers Festival](#) (Ottawa)

April 26 - 28, 2013 ~ [In the Soils Arts Festival](#) (St. Catharines)

April 26 - 28, 2013 ~ [Ontario Welsh Festival](#) (Niagara Falls)

April 26 - 28, 2013 ~ [Spring In Midland](#) (Midland)

April 27, 2013 ~ [Festival of Maples](#) (Perth)

April 28 - October 20, 2013 ~ [Flavour Festival](#) (Peterborough)

May 1 - October 19, 2013 ~ [Romeo & Juliet](#) (Stratford Festival, Stratford)

May 2 - October 19, 2013 ~ [Major Barbara](#) (Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the Lake)

May 3 - September 21, 2013 ~ [Mary Stuart](#) (Stratford Festival, Stratford)

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

## For the Love of Festivals!

Judi and I love festivals. After all, we have been visiting them for nearly 7 years and, of course, we have been involved with them for nearly 30 years. So you can imagine the excitement we are feeling for the upcoming festival/event season! Even choosing which ones to attend is an enjoyable task. There are so many to chose from! The challenge is, we don't want to disappoint any festival, either their organizers or their visitors. That's why we are so happy to have a number of "*Festival Nomad Correspondents*" who feel the same enthusiasm as we do. The problem is, as I said above, there are so many events to choose from! So, if you have the same "*love*" of festivals and events as we and our correspondents do, why not join us and become a "*Festival Nomad*"! Contact us to find out more and discover the rewards of "*Nomading*"! We can be reached at 1-888-818-0255 or [gary@ontariovisited.ca](mailto:gary@ontariovisited.ca) or [nomad@festivalnomad.ca](mailto:nomad@festivalnomad.ca). Hope to hear from you soon!



*Maple In The County - Prince Edward County*



*"Erin McLean with the Festival Nomad"*  
***Buckhorn Maplefest - McLean Berry Farm***



***Buckhorn Maplefest - McLean Berry Farm***



*"Having fun at the Orono Fair!"*  
***Festival Nomad Correspondent - Kevin Stuart***



"Relaxing at the Fair"  
[Norfolk County Fair - Simcoe](#)



"Strutting their stuff!"  
[Norwood Fall Fair](#)



"Round Up!"  
[Port Hope Fall Fair](#)

## Going Mobile...

At the February *OAAS Convention* we introduced our new *Festival and Event Mobile App*. It has been specially designed for festivals and events wishing to offer their attendees more comprehensive and convenient information about their event. This was a timely introduction, because event organizers are now realizing the need to be on the cutting edge of technology. Our Mobile App is reasonably priced and modularized so that events of various sizes and structures can take advantage of this new and innovative technology. The "*Festival and Event Mobile App*" program is a joint project of [Festival and Event Planning](#) and [Web World Strategies](#). Our new website for Mobile Apps and other innovations is under development and will be available to view in April. The web address is [www.festivalandeventmobileapps.com](http://www.festivalandeventmobileapps.com). All festivals, events and fairs are encouraged to consider having a Mobile App developed for their group. Please feel free to contact us for a comprehensive proposal at [gary@festivalandeventplanning.com](mailto:gary@festivalandeventplanning.com).

## A "Fair" Place...

I just finished posting most of the *OAAS* fairs onto our *Ontario Event Calendar*. In doing so, I couldn't believe how many Fairs there were. I had expected to find agricultural fairs in places like Kingston, Barrie and London, but now I know that they also happen, each year, in communities like Beaver Valley, Forest and Burford and, in a 100+ more Ontario communities! The thing of it is, many of these communities have been operating their fairs for over 150 years! Talk about dedication! Most of these events are "*moving with the times*" as demonstrated during our time at the *OAAS* convention. Well developed websites, entertaining events and modern management are the norm. Many of these *Agricultural Societies* offer their visitors activities beyond the "*traditional*" fair events. Fair committees and boards suffer the same challenges that community festivals and events do, but most seem to have that "*resilient pioneer spirit*", so prevalent in our ancestors! So, the next time you are driving through a community, large and small, take a look at their "*Welcome Sign*" and make note of their "*FAIR DATES*"! If you don't you might just miss the opportunity to have a really great time!

P.S., if you missed the "*WELCOME*" sign, try either our *Ontario Event Calendar* or our *Ontario Event Finder* (search engine) for the dates and links to a "*FAIR*" amount of fun!

## War of 1812 Celebrations ~ Welcome

by *Judi McWilliams*

Pathway to Peace ~ Western Corridor 1812 -1814

We are pleased to welcome *Pathways to Peace ~ Western Corridor 1812-1814* to the Article Section of *Ontario Visited ~ War of 1812 Website*. We thought we would start by introducing the *Western Corridor 1812-1814 Projects*.

Please see *War of 1812 Celebrations...* on page 4



**PATHWAYS TO PEACE**  
WESTERN CORRIDOR WAR OF 1812-1814

[Pathways To Peace - Western Corridor War of 1812-1814](#)

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Western Corridor Projects...

**Cultural Mapping** - A database of the Cultural Asset Inventory for members within the Region has been established. This inventory provides the content for an events trail, map and calendar of events and will form the bases for an interactive online database.

**Western Corridor Alliance Website** - As a portal the WCA website links to the websites of regional partners as well as provincial initiatives. This site provides an interactive, searchable database for the events in the region during the bicentennial, it will be a platform for videos, and an interactive map linking to events, cultural institutions and tourism packages (i.e.: hotels & restaurants).

**Route 1812** - A driving trail linking historic sites and cultural institutions within the region will be created. It links to trails in the Southwest, Toronto and Niagara regions as well.

**Desert Between Us and Them - Raiders, Traitors, and Refugees**

**in the War of 1812** - A documentary that tells the story of this region's involvement in the War of 1812. It empowers the citizens of this region to create an educational and promotional multimedia toolkit, as it has a mobile **application** and an online component. It also has an education learning guide that will be distributed to over 900 schools in Ontario.

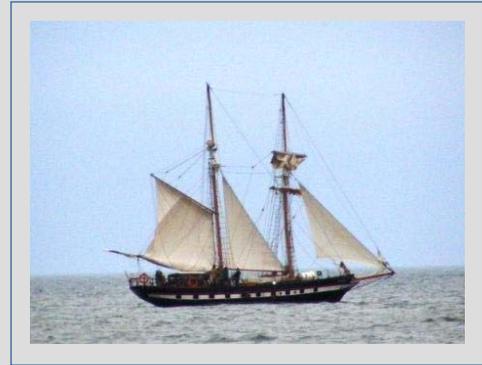
**Brock's Walk** - An events trail highlights all the 1812 events and programs during the bicentennial.

**2013 Great Lakes Tall Ships Tour** - Provincial Regional Managers have coordinated their efforts to develop a tour of Tall Ships in the Great Lakes during the summer of 2013. (NOTE: Event details can be found on the [War of 1812 Celebrations](#) website)

To find out more about the above projects and activities, and more, please visit the *Western Corridor Alliance* website ([LINK](#))



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["The Tall Ships® are coming this summer!"](#)



["Smoke fills the air!"  
 Battle of Stoney Creek - Hamilton](#)



["The whites of their eyes!"  
 Marine Heritage Festival - Port Dover](#)



["The Grand Finale!"  
 Canadian International Military Tattoo  
 & Festival - Hamilton](#)