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## The Show...

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

When we visited *Maple in the County*, we dropped in on one of their participants, *Mark Armstrong*. Mark is a very talented glass blower, with a shop located in the picturesque village of Wellington. Mark was demonstrating his glass blowing techniques to an enthusiastic audience. Watching this demonstration got me to thinking why other "arts" oriented events didn't encourage demonstrations by their artistic vendors. People love to watch "things" being created! Many years ago, when I was attending a convention in New Orleans, I visited Jackson's Square, where numerous artists hung their works of art and demonstrated their techniques. I stood and watched for some time while this one artist worked on his masterpiece. Eventually, I was so impressed, I purchased this painting. It is still my most favourite painting and believe me, having been in the art business for many years, I have seen and purchased my share of art! So, why don't organizers of artistic events (crafts, artisans, art) insist that their participants demonstrate their techniques. Unfortunately it's a question I can't really answer. Perhaps it's because organizers don't know enough about the art business or perhaps artists (etc.) are too nervous or pre-occupied to want to take the time to perform in front of an audience. Whatever the answer, I think if they did take the opportunity, they would find that their sales would increase substantially. And, if organizers insisted on demonstrations, they would likely "weed out" the "pretenders" from the "talented"! As events become more competitive in attracting visitors, I hope that organizers will heed my advice and offer their visitors a "taste of Ontario's talented artists"!



**Mark Armstrong**  
Maple in the County

## Festival Nomad's Report...

*April...* what a weird month... weather wise, that is. Judi and I were all set to go to the Peterborough Garden Show with our friends Laurence and Barb Stevenson, when a freak snow and ice storm hit our area. Go figure! Unfortunately Judi had other engagements that weekend and couldn't re-schedule. However, Barb and Laurence went the next day and Laurence has written a great article with lots of photos. Watch for his *Ontario Festivals Visited* article, which will be published soon. I hope that if you had planned on visiting an event, that the weather didn't interfere!



**Dawn Tack ~ Gardens Plus**  
Peterborough Garden Show

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

*Festival Nomad's Report...* from page 1

**May** looks to be another exciting month! Welland's *IlluminAqua* has changed its format somewhat and will be featuring, over the spring and summer months, a series of "Music Festivals". This month the *IlluminAqua Blues Festival* with *Matt Andersen, Steve Strongman & Harrison Kennedy* performing on Friday, May 17th and the *Downchild Blues Band* on Saturday, May 18th.

**Carassauga: Mississauga's Festival of Cultures** has two new Title Sponsors, *No Frills* and *Superstores*, and will feature the tastes and sounds of more than 72 countries. This is Ontario's largest multicultural festival. The middle of May bring us *Artfest at the Distillery* (Toronto). This is the first of 4 Artfest events. Artfest Toronto launches summer with a celebration of the top 85 artists and artisans from across Canada. In Lindsay, it's *All About Horses!* This is an annual event held at the Lindsay Fairgrounds. This year's event features horse clinics, Canadian Cowgirls, barrel racing, youth education and the entertaining "*Rawhide Extreme Rodeo!*" In the Kawartha area, there's the annual *Buckhorn Spring Craft Show* held at the Buckhorn Community Centre. Here you'll be able to find handmade furniture, garden accessories and ceramic pottery. Finally, at the end of the month you'll be able to savour the flavour of month watering BBQ ribs at the *Pickering Rotary Ribfest*.

Let's hope that **May** provides us with warm weather and clear skies! Here's a list of events that you may want to consider this month.

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

*May 1 - October 12, 2013* - [Guys & Dolls](#) (Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the Lake)

*May 1 - October 27, 2013* - [Our Betters](#) (Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the Lake)

*May 1 - October 20, 2013* - [Fiddler on the Roof](#) (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)

*May 4, 2013* - [Bowmanville Maple Festival & All That Jazz](#) (Bowmanville)

*May 4, 2013* - [30 Craft Market](#) (Peterborough)

*May 4 - October 19, 2013* - [Tommy](#) (Stratford Festival, Stratford)

*May 4 - 5, 2013* - [Folklore Festival](#) (Thunder Bay)

*May 4 - 5, 2013* - [Spring Craft Show](#) (Milton)

*May 4 - 5, 2013* - [Lake Scugog Studio Tour](#) (Port Perry)

*May 11, 2013* - [Land of the Voyageurs Rubber Boots Festival](#) (Noelville)

*May 11 - 12, 2013* - [War of 1812 Weekend](#) (Wallacetown - Western Corridor War of 1812-1814)

*May 12, 2013* - [Mother's Day Brunch](#) (Fanshawe Pioneer Village, London)

Please see *Festival Nomad's Report...* on page 3



[IlluminAqua ~ Welland](#)



[All About Horses ~ Lindsay Fairgrounds](#)



[Spring Craft Show ~ Buckhorn Community Centre](#)



[Bowmanville Maple Festival & All That Jazz](#)



[Schomberg Spring Fair](#)



[Battle of Stoney Creek](#)



[The Great Canadian Cheese Festival ~ Picton](#)



[Ontario Event Finder](#)

*Festival Nomad's Report...* from page 2

May 12, 2013 ~ [Mother's Day Tea](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)

May 16 - October 20, 2013 ~ [Blithe Spirit](#) (Stratford Festival, Stratford)

May 17, 2013 ~ [IlluminAqua - Matt Andersen, Steve Strongman, Harrison Kennedy](#) (Welland)

May 18, 2013 ~ [IlluminAqua - Downchild Blues Band](#) (Welland)

May 18 - 19, 2013 ~ [Buckhorn Spring Craft Show](#) (Buckhorn Community Centre, Buckhorn)

May 18 - 20, 2013 ~ [Artfest at the Distillery - Spring Art & Craft Show](#) (Toronto)

May 18 - October 19, 2013 ~ [The Three Musketeers](#) (Stratford Festival, Stratford)

May 18 - September 21, 2013 ~ [Measure for Measure](#) (Stratford Festival, Stratford)

May 19 - October 12, 2013 ~ [Peace in Our Time: A Comedy](#) (Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the Lake)

May 23 - 26, 2013 ~ [Gloucester Fair](#) (Ottawa)

May 23 - 26, 2013 ~ [Schomberg Spring Fair](#) (Schomberg)

May 24 - 26, 2013 ~ [Carassauga: Mississauga's Festival of Cultures](#) (Mississauga)

May 25 - 26, 2013 ~ [All About Horses](#) (Lindsay Fairgrounds, Lindsay)

May 29 - June 1, 2013 ~ [Spring Pulse Poetry Festival](#) (Cobalt)

May 29 - October 12, 2013 ~ [Trifles](#) (Lunchtime One-Acts) (Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the Lake)

May 30 - June 2, 2013 ~ [Brooklin Fair](#) (Brooklin)

May 30 - June 2, 2013 ~ [Clinton Spring Fair](#) (Clinton)

May 30 - June 2, 2013 ~ [Orangeville Blues & Jazz Festival](#) (Orangeville)

May 30 - June 2, 2013 ~ [Battle of Stoney Creek](#) (Stoney Creek - Hamilton)

May 31, 2013 ~ [100th Anniversary of the Opening of the Battlefield Monument](#) (Stoney Creek - Hamilton)

May 31, 2013 ~ [Smith's Knoll Memorial Parade and Service](#) (Stoney Creek - Hamilton)

May 31 - June 2, 2013 ~ [The Great Canadian Cheese Festival](#) (Picton)

May 31 - June 2, 2013 ~ [Pickering Rotary Ribfest](#) (Pickering)

May 31 - June 2, 2013 ~ [Ontario ParaSport Games](#) (Kingston)

May 31 - June 2, 2013 ~ [Art in the Park](#) (Windsor)

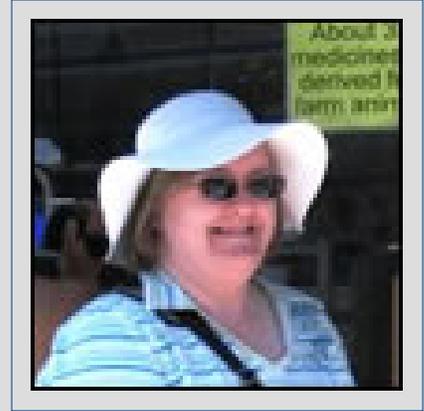
May 31 - June 2, 2013 ~ [Streetsville Bread & Honey Festival](#) (Streetsville - Mississauga)

June 1 - June 2, 2013 ~ [Waterloo Air Show](#) (Waterloo)

**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!

## Volunteers Can!

Last month I wrote about three events who were "taking a time-out". As I mentioned, there are many reasons for event organizers to do this. Sometimes the event is cancelled entirely. One of the main reasons events do this, other than financial challenges, is that their volunteers become "tired". Over the past several months, Judi and I have been talking with many event organizers and the conversations often include, "tired" volunteers, "older" volunteers, and "lack-of" volunteers. I think that this is a challenge that most, perhaps all events must face at some point. I believe that the only way of minimizing this challenge, is to have a well thought out volunteer plan that includes "renewal strategies". One of our "Festival Nomad Correspondents", Carol Law, is an expert in this area and has now developed a Volunteer program through her new website, "volunteerscan.ca" ([www.volunteerscan.ca](http://www.volunteerscan.ca)). In the future you will be able to learn more about Carol and her "Volunteer" strategies in her new monthly column "Volunteers Can" which starts in our next month's June 2013 issue. *Stay Tuned!*



[Carol Law ~ Volunteers Can](#)



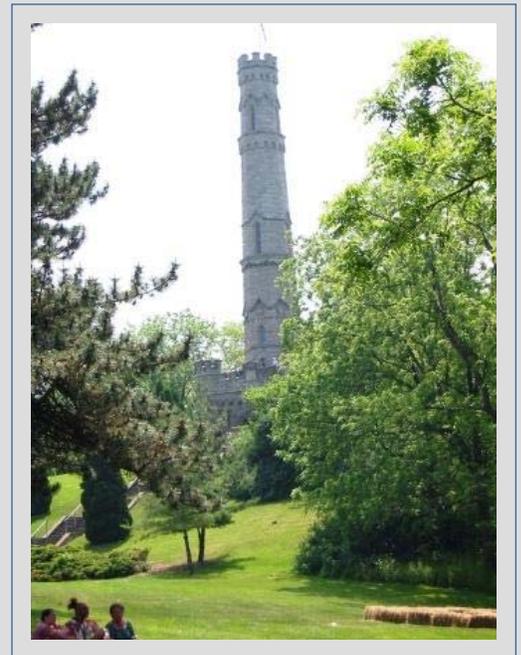
[Adrienne Horne ~ Pathways to Peace](#)

## War of 1812 ~ Commemorations Continue... History is Alive & Exciting!

by Judi McWilliams

*Ontario Visited* is pleased to have the privilege to once again work with **Adrienne Horne, M.A., Regional Project Manager, Pathways to Peace ~ Western Corridor War of 1812 Bicentennial Alliance**. **Adrienne** has been a wonderful contributor to *Ontario Visited's* various "Blogs & Articles" by providing articles, reflections, knowledge, and perspectives!

*Pathways to Peace ~ Western Corridor 1812-1814* is pleased to share its newest **Project ~ Route 1812**. *The route is a collection of historic trails used 200 years ago by Native warriors, British soldiers and settlers throughout Southern Ontario. These trails will take you on a historic journey as you learn what happened in Upper Canada (Southern Ontario) during the War of 1812. Visitors are free to explore these trails in any direction and order. Along the way you will find historic sites, museums, events, and even colourful Barn Quilts; all telling the local story of how the war affected various settlements. Stop at the communities to fully explore the local sites as you learn how the original settlers defended their homes and forged our nationhood. Please respect private property. There is so much to see and do, plan to visit again. We will be presenting our complete interview with Adrienne Horne in upcoming Blogs and newsletters, for our War of 1812 Celebrations website, as Route 1812 Journey continues... Visit Western Corridor's website at [www.westerncorridor1812.com](http://www.westerncorridor1812.com) for all details and current information.*



[Battlefield Monument ~ Stoney Creek  
100th Year Anniversary of Opening  
\(2013\)](#)

Please see *War of 1812 ~ Commemorations...* on page 5

*Festival Nomad's Report... from page 4*



[View From Fort Henry's Upper Fort Towards Deadman Bay](#)



[View From Fort Henry's Upper Fort Towards City of Kingston](#)



[Entering the Lower Fort Fort Henry ~ Kingston](#)



[Ontario Event Calendar](#)

**"EDUTAINMENT"...** Looking toward the future ... **EXCITING NEWS** from the "FORT"

*Ontario Visited* is extremely excited to be working this year the *St. Lawrence Parks Commission*, including *Upper Canada Village* and *Fort Henry*. For me, this past week was truly enlightening and encouraging, as I had the privilege to interview *Mr. Will Baird, Manager of Fort Henry ~ St. Lawrence Parks Commission* who shared some "Edutainment" ideas! *Ontario Visited* will be posting Blog articles over the next few weeks talking with *Mr. Will Baird* about "Edutainment"; "Why is history important!"; "Who said History was boring?"; "The Famous NEW, EXCITING Sunset Ceremony"; "Controversy ... Historians, artifacts, accuracy"; "Alive in Five" strategy: "The Trade Square", "The most exciting Job ever!" and more! In keeping up with what is relevant in consumer consumption, innovative plans are in place at *Fort Henry*. The revitalization of the *Fort* is all part of an "Alive in Five" strategy the *St. Lawrence Parks Commission's* mantra to become financially *self-sufficient within five years*.

What that means to you, the visitor, the consumer ~ "The Upper Fort now will be free for the public to enter"... "Waiting for new visitors is a wooden deck that spans the inside walls and offers an unparalleled view of Lake Ontario and the Royal Military College. Tables and chairs for more than 100 people will be added where they can sample light dishes and beverages. Some of the rooms that line the upper fort, formerly offices, will be turned over to vendors who will turn each one into a craft room. Tables will also be set up on the upper parade square, now to be called *The Trade Square*, to hold more items. The market will run from Sunday May 12, through September 14. "At any given time as long as the fort is open, you will be able to walk in there, free of admission charges, and go and browse the shops". This area will be a permanent little artisan market that includes jewelry, sculpture, paintings, glassware and other crafts made from natural materials.

## Pan Provincial Tall Ships® Tour

*TALL SHIPS® 1812 Tour - Southern Georgian Bay*

August 16th-18th & August 24th & 25th, 2013

Tall Ships Return for 1812 Tour of Ontario

*Water's Edge Festivals & Events* is proud to announce the *TALL SHIPS® 1812 Tour*: a pan provincial event that will travel throughout Ontario during the summer of 2013, commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. *Water's Edge Festivals & Events (WEFE)* is an Ontario not-for-profit corporation created in 2011 with a mandate to be the driving force behind the successful *Redpath Waterfront Festival* in Toronto.

Please see *Pan Provincial Tall Ships® Tour...* on page 6

*Pan Provincial Tall Ships® Tour... from page 5*

***The fleet's in!***

*The Southern Georgian Bay region will play host to a vast array of events, activities and projects from 2013 to 2014 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, focusing on our region's rich military and marine heritage. The highlight for 2013 will be the return of Tall Ships® to the Southern Georgian Bay region as part of the TALL SHIPS® 1812 Tour. The ports of Collingwood, Owen Sound, Wasaga Beach, Midland, Penetanguishene, the Historic Sites of Nancy Island and Discovery Harbour and will be hosting up to as many two weekends in August as part of a Pan Provincial event that will travel throughout Ontario during the summer of 2013, commemorating the bicentennial of the War of 1812.*

*Response from the tall ships community is enthusiastic, with many historic and spectacular vessels travelling to Southern Georgian Bay to take part in the event. Three confirmed ships to date that have a direct link to the War of 1812 include the **Pride of Baltimore II**, **Privateer Lynx** and **U.S Brig Niagara** all replica ships that fought on the Atlantic and Great Lakes during the War of 1812.*

***Redpath Sugar - Presenting Sponsor***

*"For over 150 years, Redpath Sugar has been bringing raw sugar into Canada by ship," said Peter Toppazzini, Redpath Director of Sales, who is also the Festival Board Chair. "In addition to being the title sponsor for the annual Waterfront Festival in Toronto, we are proud to be the presenting sponsor of this Pan Provincial event that celebrates the shared histories of Canada and the United States through the TALL SHIPS® 1812 Tour."*

***A Summer of Excitement at Ontario Regional Ports***

*Tall Ships America® Executive Director Bert Rogers comments: "As befits the commemoration of the momentous events that took place here during the War of 1812, the TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® Great Lakes 2013 will be the most exciting series ever produced in the Great Lakes. We are extremely proud that the TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® will return to the beautiful port city of Toronto and will expand to 15 other ports in Ontario. We look forward to celebrating 200 years of peace between nations through these wonderful events."*

***Pan Provincial Tall Ships® 1812 Tour Schedule ...***

Brockville Tall Ships® 1812 Tour ~ June 14-16  
 Redpath Waterfront Festival Toronto ~ June 20-23  
 Tall Ships® Hamilton ~ June 28-30  
 St. Catharines 1812 TALL SHIPS® Visit ~ June 29-30  
 Sails on the St. Marys, Sault Ste. Marie ~ July 19-21  
 Tall Ships® 1812 Georgian Bay ~ Aug 16-19 & Aug 24-25  
 Southwestern Ontario: Sails to See ~ Aug 30 - Sept 2

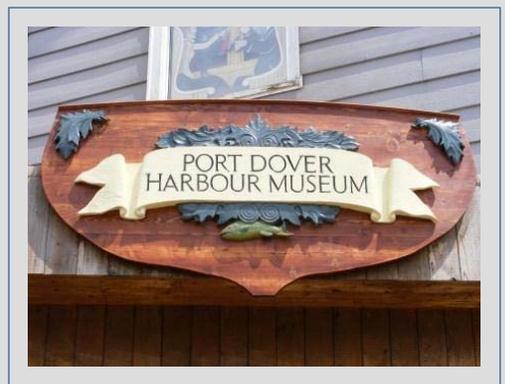
*Ontario Visited* has a complete list of events throughout our *Ontario Visited* websites. If you need assistance in location information, please check out the participants website, or give us a call, we will see what we can find for you! We hope you get to visit some of the Ports and exciting events planned.



[Discovery Harbour ~ Penetanguishene](#)



[St. Lawrence Seaway ~ Prescott](#)



[Port Dover Marine Museum](#)



[Pan Provincial Tall Ships® 1812 Tour](#)



[Cobourg Waterfront Festival](#)



[Cobourg Highland Games  
50th Anniversary ~ 2013](#)



[Festival Nomad Website](#)



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## Congratulations!

Each spring worthy festival and events are rewarded both with funding grants and achievement awards. The *Government of Ontario* recently released this year's list of *Ontario Celebrates* funding recipients. This list is most impressive and can be found on our *Ontario Festivals Visited* website (LINK). The other list, recently announced and released, was the *Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO) Top 100 Ontario Festivals*. This list can also be found on our *Ontario Festivals Visited* website. Judi and I warmly congratulate these wonderful events and their hard working volunteers! The festivals and events shown on these two lists represent only a fraction of the festivals and events held each year in Ontario! Unfortunately not all events can be included. Just the act of planning and organizing an event is a sign our courage and excellence! *Ontario Visited* would like to congratulate all Ontario events and their organizers and volunteers! Without them, Ontario and its communities would be a much poorer place to live! If you know of any event you would like recognized, let us know and we will acknowledge their name and information in these ongoing newsletters and our websites. I would like to mention two from my area, the *Cobourg Waterfront Festival* and the *Cobourg Highland Games*. The *Cobourg Waterfront Festival* is considered to be the "*largest open-air fine art and craft sale show in Ontario*" and it's organizing groups have donate millions of dollars back into the community. The *Cobourg Highland Games* celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Its proud representation of Cobourg's Scottish heritage has continued throughout its long history.

## Festival Nomad.CA

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we have now introduced our newest "Festival" website, the "*Festival Nomad*" (LINK). If you haven't had a chance to visit the website yet, I thought I would give you a brief tutorial. The website contains a number of informational sections. The "*Tips*" section contains useful "festival/event tips" for both event visitors and for event organizers. Our "*Adventures of the Festival Nomad*" section relates stories about places, events and people, we have encountered over the past 30 years. One of the stories describes the best festival I have ever visited, The *Southeastern Wildlife Exposition* (SEWE) held in Charleston, South Carolina. Another series of articles describe Judi's and my "*two month trip across Western Canada*", including our encounter with 2 escaped convicts in Winnipeg, our being chased by a "*free roaming plains bison*" in Elk Island National Park, Alberta and watching walrus in Pacific National Park. Our "*Advisors*" section features articles by several festival and event specialists, including *Jan Bonhomme*, "*FEO award winner*"; *Shawn King*, creator of our Festival and Event Mobile App, and *Carol Law*, who has extensive experience in recruiting and managing volunteers. Our "*International*" section connects to an *International Festival Report*, a *World Headline News Page* and an *International Festival and Event Calendar*. And finally, there is our "*Festival Nomad*" on-line store. Judi and I have had a lot of fun developing the "*Festival Nomad Character*" and in choosing useful and quality "*branded*" products that carry either of "*Festival Nomad*" or "*Ontario Visited*" logos. Please take a look at the website and our products and let us know what you think. Hopefully we will meet you at one of Ontario's fabulous festivals/events!