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***It's What We Do!...***

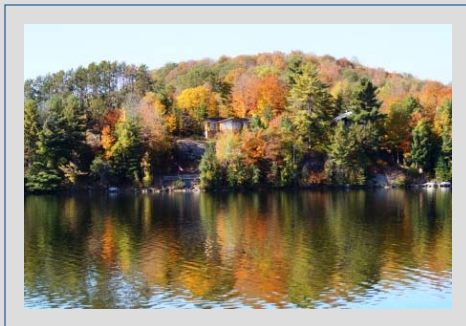
By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

Now that Fall is in full swing, I've been thinking about the past few months and what a whirlwind it's been! It's funny, Spring started out so simply, a couple of Maple Syrup Festivals in March - *Maple in the County* (Prince Edward County) and the *Buckhorn Maple Syrup Festival* at the McLean Berry Farm. In April we missed the *Peterborough Garden Show*, but our friends and Festival Correspondents, *Barbara and Laurence Stephenson*, went on our behalf. We did get to travel to Prescott to the *St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival's* play "*Forever, Yours Jane*". It was the same simple pace in May, a visit to the *Toronto Zoo* for the unveiling of the *Giant Panda Exhibit* and then later in the month to Mississauga for *Carassauga*. As I said, very slow ... then all heck broke loose ... June and Summer happened!

June started with the *Bowmanville Ribfest* and ended in Kingston at *Artfest Kingston*. In between we visited the *Canadian International Military Tattoo & Festival* in Hamilton, the *Cobourg Highland Games*, the *Quinte Rodeo* in Belleville at the Quinte Exhibition Grounds, the *Redpath Waterfront Festival* in Toronto with the launching of the *Tall Ships® 1812 Tour*. Then we were back in Cobourg for the *Cobourg Waterfront Festival!* Then we got "*really busy*"!

In Ottawa we attended the *Official Canada Day Celebrations* in the afternoon and then the *National Capital Commission Parliament Hill Celebrations* that evening. The next day we travelled to Prescott for a "*sneak peak*" rehearsal of the *St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival's* play, "*Hamlet*". The next day we were in Kingston to see *Fort Henry's Sunset Ceremony*. That same week we were in Campbellford to attend *Westben's Arts Festival Theatre*, "*Carmen*" (fantastic!). On the weekend we Toured the *1000 Island's Parkway* (operated by the St. Lawrence Parks Commission) and then attended the *Battle of Crysler's Farm* at *Upper Canada Village* in Morrisburg. We actually stayed home for a week, but on the weekend we had a "*behind the scenes*" tour of the *Toronto Zoo* (amazing!). On Sunday, we visited two events, the *Rideau Rural Roots Festival* in Smith Falls and the *Stewart Park Festival* in Perth. We also travelled to the *St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival* for the opening Gala night of "*Maid for a Musket*".

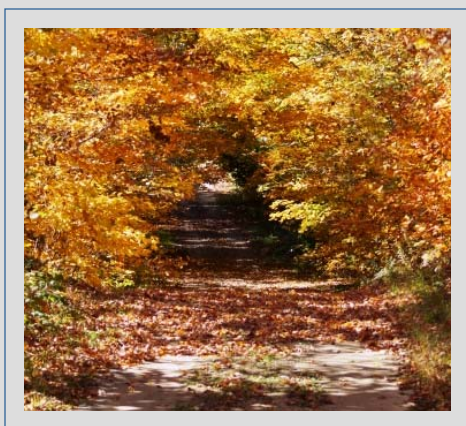
Please see *It's What We Do!...* on page 2



**"Scenic Lake"**  
Haliburton Fall Tour



**"Fall Laundry"**  
Haliburton Fall Tour



**"Through the Woods"**  
Haliburton Fall Tour

*It's What We Do!...* from page 1

The month ended up with Judi and I visiting 3 events plus an interview on Saturday. First it was *Daylilies in Bloom* at *Gardens Plus* in Peterborough, then the *Lakefield Fair* and finally the *Peterborough Musicfest*. In between the fair and the Musicfest, we met Jason and Joanne, hosts of *Kawarthas Northumberland "1000 Perfect Weekend"* Report.

August was even busier (*if you can imagine*)! The first weekend it was the *Collingwood Arts & Music Festival* and then the *Newmarket jazz+ Festival* (*congrats to George and Sher!*). The following weekend we travelled to Sutton for the *Sutton Fair*. In mid-week we travelled back to Prescott for an encore performance of *"Maid for a Musket"*. We took our budding *"Thespian"* grandson to experience the play and to talk with the festival's artistic director, *Ian Farthing* (thanks again to Ian!). That weekend we visited 6 events! *Lindsay Ribfest* and the *Buckhorn Fine Art Festival* on Friday; the *Port Credit Buskerfest* and the *Milton Ribfest* on Saturday and the *Festival of Textiles* (Judi)(*Lang Pioneer Village & Museum, Keene*) and the *Northumberland Ribfest* (Me) (Cobourg) on the Sunday.

From there it was all a blur! On Wednesday we visited the *Barrie Fair*; on Thursday we toured communities of *Barrie, Orillia, Gravenhurst, Bracebridge, Baysville, Huntsville* and *Port Carling*. On Friday and Saturday we were in *Midland*. Here's what we managed to take in: a tour of the *"Sainte Marie among the Hurons"* historic site; visited the *Midland Harbour Festival* and the *Midland Tall Ships® 1812 Tour*. In *Penetanguishene* (just a few miles from Midland) it was the *Penetanguishene Tall Ships® 1812 Tour*, the *Discovery Harbour* historic site and along with their presentation of the *Tall Ships® 1812 Tour* (and raising of the *"Peace Flag"*). The month finally ended with visits to *Artfest Toronto* in the *Distillery District*, *IlluminAqua* in Welland and the *Paris Fair*. Fortunately the summer was finally over and our visits slowed down, a bit!

Fall and September 1<sup>st</sup> took us to *Port Perry Fair*. Then the next weekend we were in Muskoka and toured *Lake Rosseau* on *Sunset Cruises, Peerless II*. (*What a treat with Captain Randy at the helm!*). The next week we were in London for the *Western Fair* and then on the weekend, it was on to Lindsay for the *Lindsay Exhibition* and off to Ancaster for the *Ancaster Fair*. In between, Judi and I attended *Homecoming Weekend* at *Appleby College* in Oakville for our graduating class's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion (OMG). The month ended with the *Bobcaygeon Fair*, a *Fall Tour of Kawarthas Northumberland* and finally, the *Roseneath Fair*.

This brings me to the current month (*I'm writing this at the end of October*) and I'm exhausted just writing about it!. First, midweek, it was a *Fall Tour of Haliburton and the Highlands*. This was the last good travelling/viewing day before the wind and rains came. On Saturday we explored the *Markham Fair*.

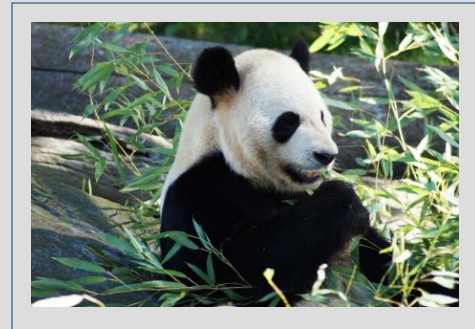
Please see *It's What We Do!...* on page 3



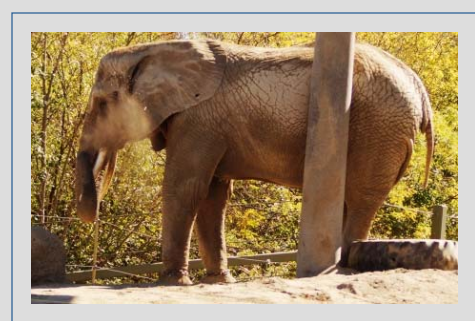
**"Ready to Cook"**  
Markham Fair



**"Heavy Pulling"**  
Markham Fair



**"Newly Arrived"**  
Toronto Zoo Fall Tour



**"Newly Departed"**  
Toronto Zoo Fall Tour





**"Beautiful Pottery"**  
Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival



**"Spectacular Falls"**  
Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival



**"Fun Midway"**  
Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show



**"Majestic Horse Drawn Wagons"**  
Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show

*It's What We Do!...* from page 2

The next week we experienced a "Fall Tour" of the *Toronto Zoo*. This was followed by a trip to the Niagara Region and the annual *Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival* (*we'll be back!*). The next day we visited one of our favourite fall fairs, the *Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show* in Simcoe County. On Thanksgiving Sunday we took in the *Norwood Fair*. The following weekend it was the *Toronto Fall GO Rving Show* at the Toronto Congress Centre. One event in October was the "scariest". I travelled to *Fort Henry* in Kingston with my daughter, Ainsley, her husband, Eddy and my two grandsons. Our real destination was *Fort Fright!* For those of you that don't know, Fort Henry magically, each fall, turns itself into the "frightening" **Fort Fright!**

All-in-all, Judi and I travelled to and visited over 70 festivals, events, fairs, attractions and communities. We've had a wonderful time and met a lot of great people. We look forward to visiting more this winter.

## Festival Nomad's Report...

As I mentioned above, it's been a very busy past few months. Now it's time to slow down a bit and, like the farmers, "*repair our equipment!*" In that regard, we are working hard to revamp and update our websites. Technology has certainly changed over the past 7 years and now we need to catch up. We'll let you know once everything is in place. In the meantime, we have lots of articles to write and post. This is happening even as this newsletter is being written. If you have any events that you are involved with or are aware of events that need to be promoted, there is no cost to have them listed on either (or both) our **Ontario Event Calendar** or our **Ontario Event Finder** (search engine). Please contact us by e-mail [info@ontariofestivalsvisited.ca](mailto:info@ontariofestivalsvisited.ca) with event details. Finally, if you have news about an event, festival, fair, community, etc., you can use our free **Ontario Event News** websites to let people know. Submit information by using our [News Submission Form](#).

## Nomad's November Event List...

Here's a list of some of the events that are happening in **November**.

**October 24 - November 2, 2013** ~ [Fort Fright](#) (Fort Henry, Kingston)

**October 24 - November 3, 2013** ~ [Pumpkinerferno](#) (Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg)

Please see *Nomad's November Event List...* on page 4

*Nomad's November Event List...* from page 3

November 1 - 10, 2013 ~ [Royal Winter Fair](#) (Toronto)  
 November 1 - 3, 2013 ~ [The Maker's Hand](#) (Picton)  
**November 9, 2013** ~ [Friends Chinese Dinner](#) (Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton)  
 November 9, 2013 ~ [London Santa Claus Parade](#) (London)  
**November 9 - 10, 2013** ~ [Battle of Nanticoke](#) (Cayuga)  
 November 9 - 10, 2013 ~ [Day of the Dead](#) (Harbourfront Centre, Toronto)  
 November 9, 2013 - January 31, 2014 ~ [Winter Festival of Lights](#) (Niagara Falls)  
 November 10, 2013 ~ [Ajax Santa Claus Parade](#) (Ajax)  
**November 14 - 17, 2013** ~ [Kawartha Lakes Festival of Trees](#) (Kawartha Settlers' Village, Bobcaygeon)  
 November 16, 2013 ~ [The Art of Winter](#) (Belleville)  
**November 16, 2013** ~ [Owen Sound Santa Claus Parade](#) (Owen Sound)  
 November 16, 2013 ~ [Oakville Santa Claus Parade](#) (Oakville)  
 November 16, 2013 ~ [Newmarket Santa Claus Parade](#) (Newmarket)  
 November 16, 2013 ~ [Cambridge Santa Claus Parade](#) (Cambridge)  
 November 16, 2013 ~ [Kingsville Santa Claus Parade](#) (Kingsville)  
 November 16, 2013 ~ [Hamilton Santa Claus Parade](#) (Hamilton)  
 November 16, 2013 ~ [Sudbury Santa Claus Parade](#) (Sudbury)  
 November 16, 2013 ~ [Thunder Bay Christmas Parade](#) (Thunder Bay)  
 November 16, 2013 ~ [Kitchener Santa Claus Parade](#) (Kitchener)  
 November 16, 2013 ~ [Niagara Falls Santa Claus Parade](#) (Niagara Falls)  
 November 16, 2013 ~ [Santa's Parade of Lights](#) (Oshawa)  
 November 16, 2013 ~ [Barrie Santa Claus Parade](#) (Barrie)  
 November 16 - December 23, 2013 ~ [Christmas at Black Creek](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)  
 November 17, 2013 ~ [Toronto Santa Claus Parade](#) (Toronto)  
 November 17, 2013 ~ [Cobourg Santa Claus Parade](#) (Cobourg)  
**November 23, 2013** ~ [Kingston Santa Claus Parade](#) (Kingston)  
 November 23, 2013 ~ [Smiths Falls Santa Claus Parade](#) (Smiths Falls)  
 November 23, 2013 ~ [Help Santa Toy Parade](#) (Ottawa)  
 November 23 - 24, 2013 ~ [Ancaster Craft Show](#) (Ancaster)  
 November 23 - 24, 2013 ~ [Swedish Christmas Festival](#) (Harbourfront Centre, Toronto)  
 November 24, 2013 ~ [Richmond Hill Santa Claus Parade](#) (Richmond Hill)



**"Town Park"**  
Town of Simcoe



**"Welcome to Town"**  
Town of Simcoe



**"Hay Baling"**  
Norwood Fall Fair



**"Around the Barrel"**  
Norwood Fall Fair

Please see *Nomad's November Event List...* on page 5





**"Travel in Style"**  
Toronto Fall GO RVing Show



**"Tenting in Style"**  
Toronto Fall GO RVing Show



**"New BFF"**  
Fort Fright (Fort Henry)



**"Family Fun"**  
Fort Fright (Fort Henry)

*Nomad's November Event List...* from page 4

November 24, 2013 ~ [Mississauga Santa Claus Parade](#) (Mississauga)

November 24, 2013 ~ [Santa's Parade of Lights](#) (Stratford)

November 24, 2013 ~ [North Bay Santa Claus Parade](#) (North Bay)

November 29 - 30, 2013 ~ [Dickens' Dinner - Old Cheeseman's Christmas](#) (Fanshawe Pioneer Village, London)

November 28 - 30, 2013 ~ [First Light](#) (Sainte Marie among the Hurons, Midland)

**November 30, 2013** ~ [Brockville Santa Claus Parade](#) (Brockville)

November 30, 2013 ~ [Markham Santa Claus Parade](#) (Markham)

November 30, 2013 ~ [Uxbridge Santa Claus Parade](#) (Uxbridge)

November 30, 2013 ~ [Port Hope Santa Claus Parade](#) (Port Hope)

November 30, 2013 ~ [Flamborough Santa Claus Parade](#) (Flamborough)

**November 30, 2013** ~ [Midland Santa Claus Parade](#) (Midland)

November 30, 2013 - January 5, 2014 ~ [Simcoe Christmas Panorama](#) (Simcoe)

November 30, 2013 ~ [Brantford Santa Claus Parade](#) (Brantford)

**November - December 31, 2013** ~ [Stones 'n Bones Museum](#) (Sarnia)

December 1, 2013 ~ [Christmas Parade](#) (Burlington)

December 1, 2013 ~ [Nite at the Races](#) (Ottawa Carleton Raceway, Ottawa)

December 1, 2013 ~ [Children's Old Fashion Christmas](#) (Scugog Shores Museum Village, Port Perry)

**Note:** I have tried to list as many *Santa Claus Parade* events as I could find on Google. I am sure that I have missed many of them, for that I apologize. I hope you enjoy the parade of your choice! **Ho Ho Ho!**  
(E&OE)

## ***Flip... Flop...***

By Judi "Scoop" McWilliams, Festival Nomad Correspondent

By now many of you have read our "*tips*" about dressing appropriately while visiting Ontario's many wonderful festivals and events. I typed the "*tips*", I wrote many of the "*tips*", and I read all of them. What's unfortunate for me this past summer is, that I let the hot weather of the day prevail over my "*common-sense*" and "*event knowledge*"!

Here are a couple of examples ... As we arrived at the *Barrie Fair* on a hot summer day, we parked not too far from the main entrance. I was "*prepared*" for the weather conditions. I adorned a short flowing skirt that was "*cool*", my *Ontario Visited* blouse, comfortable "*flip flops*", and lots of fresh sunscreen lathered on my legs.

Please see *Flip... Flop...* on page 6

*Flip... Flop...* from page 5

Not two minutes into our walk to the fair entrance, we found ourselves walking across a dry dirt field. The wind started to blow, sand flew all around. My skirt flew up in the air (*all day long*). And, unfortunately, my freshly sun screened lathered legs were covered in dirt and sand. I tried to rub the dirt off, but only managed to ingrain the dirt more into my skin! My feet looked like I had not bathed in months ... Lesson Learned!

At the *Paris Fair* this summer I was not the only girl in "flip flops" and a "skirt". As it happened, this year is the 100 years of 4-H in Canada and *Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne* was attending the *Paris Fair* to hand out the award winning ribbons to the winners of the cattle categories. Agriculture is part of the Premier's portfolio and she spoke about how passionate she is about the importance of Agriculture in Canada. This day, both *Premier Kathleen Wynne* and the young Ambassador of the *Paris Fair* wore "flip flops" (*open toed flat shoes*) and "white dresses". Mind you, their dresses weren't flying in the wind as mine had, but they were white. Someone had the foresight to line the viewing bleachers with plastic cloths so the Premier and guests could stay "clean".

The Premier and Ambassador needed to walk the show ring on wooden chips to present the award winning ribbons to the 4H participants. *But, cows are cows, and nature happens*. The poor young Ambassador stepped right into a fresh pile of cow manure! Fortunately clean water was readily available for clean-up and the Ambassador soon returned to the ceremonies now adorned with sensible flat enclosed shoes.

You never know what weather conditions will eventually come out in a day, winds, rain, snow, ice, muddy fields, dry dirt flying ... you get the picture. My only suggestion or "tip" as it were ... follow your "common sense", not your "fashion-sense" for your next adventures to Ontario's great festivals, fairs, and events.



"Great Floats"  
Toronto Santa Claus Parade

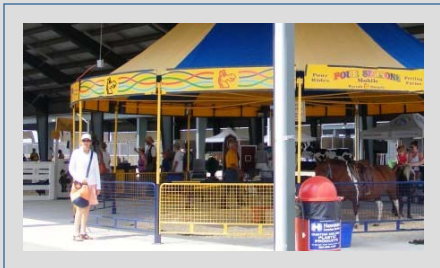


"Beautiful Marchers"  
Port Hope Santa Claus Parade



"Santa Arrives"  
Cobourg Santa Claus Parade

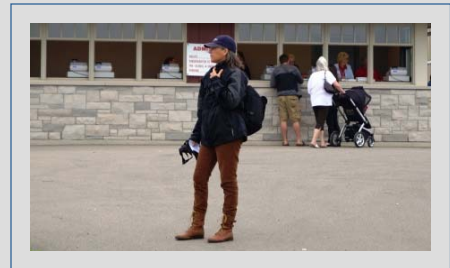
More Photos...



"Judi"  
Barrie Fair



"Premier & Ambassador"  
Paris Fair



"Judi"  
Following Her NON *Flip... Flop...* Tip!



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