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## December Dreamin'!

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

Living in Cobourg, the "Banana Belt" of Ontario, I started to convince myself that we were going to have a mild winter and, maybe, a "snow-free" one! That one was "blown out of the water" (literally) when Lake Huron blew great amounts of snow across Ontario! I was "shocked" into reality when an e-mail from my Newmarket sister-in-law, *Super Festival Nomad Correspondent, Carol Law*, contained photos of snow piles the size of "tall buildings" that were located on her front lawn. Okay, I'll admit that I am exaggerating a bit. But, there was snow in the photos and lots of it! Both her lawn and her street were covered, and I mean covered, with bright white snow! I suddenly realized that no matter how much I "dreamed" of a "snow-free" winter, it wasn't going to happen! Snow, and probably lots of it, was going to be in my future! This was further emphasized, when I got up in the morning to find my car covered in snow.

Please see *December Dreamin' ...* on page 2

## Gone, But Not Forgotten...

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

In the spring of 2001, we received a call from our friends, Jim and Pat Abbey. They called to say that they wanted to drop by the farm on their way to the east coast. The next day there was a knock on our door. Jim and Pat had arrived and they had brought a "friend" along. We invited them all in. The "friend" was a beautiful "liver and white" English Springer Spaniel! The Springer, "Dusty", charged us the stairs and immediately jumped up onto our "good" couch. She sat there defiantly! This was the start of a 12 year love affair! That was the day that Dusty took over our home (her home) and our hearts! Over the years we have had the privilege of witnessing the trails and tribulations of living with our furry friend. I was going to say that we "owned" her, but the truth is that she "owned" us. Life with Dusty was never dull, especially for Judi. Dusty demanded attention and certainly got it from us. She loved people and anyone who visited our home, were visiting her! There wasn't a mean bone in her body! Most of the time Dusty just liked to play and explore. This was especially true at the farm. Here she had lots of room to run, play and roam. One of her favourite adventures was our walks along the road that led into the farm. It was about a kilometre long and had a stream running along side of it. Dusty used to charge into the water and look for interesting things to look at and smell.

Please see *Gone, But Not Forgotten...* on page 2



"We Wish You A..."  
Gary and Judi



"Dusty"  
Remembering Our Friend

*December Dreamin'...* from page 1

There goes the "*Banana Belt*"! It's hard to be too upset, after all, I am a hardy Canadian, living in the "*true north*"! Actually, it's the "*cold north*" to our American friends (*southern USA, that is!*). So, with this in mind, we (that's Judi and me - I am going to "*drag*" her along with me... misery loves company!) are going to embrace the Canadian (*Ontario*) winter and visit as many "*winter*" events as possible. Weather will be a factor (*bad roads*), but the cold (*and snow*) will not? So, keep the highways and byways open, here we come!

Judi and I wish you all a very *Merry Christmas* and a happy and safe holiday season!

*Gone, But Not Forgotten...* from page 1

This was a lot of fun for her, but too much fun for us, especially Judi. At the end of the run, we would have to dry her off and then brush the twigs and dust out of her fur! Other types of exploration interested our little friend! There were plenty of farm animals. She love to investigate and chase them - pigs, chickens, cows and "*Clinton and Jenny*", the two "*watch donkeys*" that protected us from wild animals! Speaking of "*wild animals*", Dusty wasn't afraid of investigating them too! There were always lots of Raccoons to chase and once she stepped on a skunk. Fortunately they were both so surprised, that they ran a way from each other, no harm done. She was especially fond of chasing birds. We often wondered what she would do if she ever caught one. One day we actually found out! Birds would see their reflection in one of our large windows. Thinking that it was another bird, they would fly into the window and bounce off. This day, one bounced off and landed, stunned, on the ground. Before we could get to it, Dusty ran to it and scooped it up in her mouth. We were sure that she would kill in. Instead, Dusty walked to a nearby bush and gently placed it under a branch, and then tried to cover it. She was hiding it, protecting it from predators. A few hours after this had happened, Judi and I snuck outside (*without Dusty*) to see if the bird was still alive. Much to our surprise it was gone. It had recovered and had flown away!

This past year Judi and I had the opportunity to travel a lot and visit a number of festivals and events. Rather than inconvenience family and friends, we discovered a nearby "*Dog Resort*". We arranged with the owner an "*inspection*" tour. Cathy, the kennel's owner wanted to meet us and to see if Dusty would be compatible with her other "*guests*". We, all of us, must have passed Cathy's inspection, because she told us that she would be glad to have Dusty come and stay with her. The first time we left Dusty there we (*Judi*) were very nervous. However, when we came to pick Dusty up she had made herself right at home and seemed "*reluctant*" to leave her new "*friends*". During the summer we left Dusty at "*CJ's Dog Resort & Spa*" numerous times.

Please see *Gone, But Not Forgotten...* on page 3



"Relaxing"  
Remembering Our Friend



"Friendship"  
Remembering Our Friend



"Helping to Promoting Ontario festivals"  
Remembering Our Friend



"Four Horse Hitch"  
Royal Winter Fair



"Setting up for Jump Canada"  
Royal Winter Fair



"Jump Canada"  
Royal Winter Fair

*Gone, But Not Forgotten...* from page 2

She was always excited to go and reluctant to leave! Each time we picked her up she seemed younger and more lively! She was having a great time with her friends! Cathy and her husband loved Dusty! It was a wonderful summer for us all!

Last Friday, just as we were getting ready for bed, Dusty started to have a massive seizure. The next day we took her to our Vet. Dusty had seemed to recover. The Vet told that she might be okay as long as she didn't have any more seizures. Saturday everything was fine. Dusty slept a lot, but no more seizures. Then on Sunday, she had two more episodes. "*Father time*" had finally caught up with our little friend. She gone now, but she will always be in our hearts... she'll never be forgotten!

### THE INSIDE SCOOP...

*Interview with Santa's Head Elf... Christmas Carol...*

Scoop Judi (SJ): It's a pleasure to finally take to you. I always love learning about the "inside" workings of a special event! With it being so close to the "BIG" day, you must be really busy.

Elf Carol (EC): *Of course, I (We) are very busy, but you know the old saying, "Need something done, ask a busy person!"*

Scoop Judi (SJ): With the work that needs to still be done, will you be able to meet all your goals by Christmas Eve?

Elf Carol (EC): *Of course. I have lots of elf "volunteers" to help me.*

Scoop Judi (SJ): When did you and Santa start your planning?

Elf Carol (EC): *Actually, we have already working on next year. A good plan is well communicated. That's why our elves have secret twitter accounts!*

Scoop Judi (SJ): How do you decide what needs to be done and when?

Elf Carol (EC): *A good elf just knows. I always ask the elves for their input, and I keep track on Excel as in "Excellent". Thank goodness for modern technology. You wouldn't believe the confusion in the "old day". Even Santa has embraced the "digital" world!*

Scoop Judi (SJ): Even though Christmas is an annual event, there must be lots of new things to learn. How do you go about training your old and new elves?

Elf Carol (EC): *Most importantly, I make it fun and have lots of good treats like candy canes and hot chocolate for them. I want them to be happy and attentive.*

Please see *THE INSIDE SCOOP – Santa's Head Elf...* on page 4

*THE INSIDE SCOOP – Santa's Head Elf... from page 3*

Scoop Judi (SJ): How do you decide who does what?

Elf Carol (EC): *Some like to do the same things they do all year, while some like to try something new. There is so much to do. There is enough for everyone! It's important that everyone is interested in what they are doing.*

Scoop Judi (SJ): Do you and Santa have a "reward" system?

Elf Carol (EC): *Frankly, we work for Santa and Christmas. A good cause is reward enough.*

Scoop Judi (SJ): How do you keep the elves happy?

Elf Carol (EC): *We sing holiday songs and watch YouTube videos of happy kids from last year. You know, "keep your mission in sight". Even the Grinch has been known to smile. I'm just not sure of what his "mission" is!*

Scoop Judi (SJ): Do you and Santa have a wrap-up party?

Elf Carol (EC): Yes, of course. *The "wrap-up" is a bittersweet moment. "Our task is done and we had so much fun. On to next year, we're number one!"*

Scoop Judi (SJ): WOW! So what's your plan for next year?

Elf Carol (EC): *Simple, the more elves, the merrier!*

We hope that you enjoyed this year's interview. Who knows, next year's interview may include the "Grinch"! **Merry Christmas!**

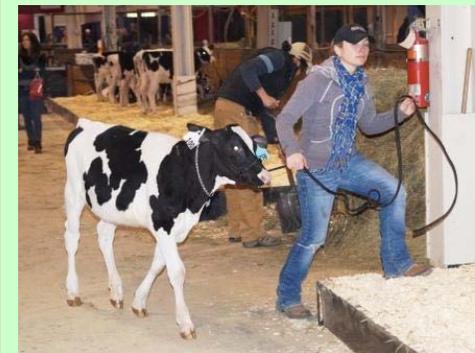
## Festival Nomad's Report...

It's hard to believe that the year is coming to a close! **November** seemed to come and go so quickly! It opened up with a trip to Toronto, to the *Royal Winter Fair*. We hadn't been in a few years, so the visit was well worth the drive. The following week we traveled to Ottawa. We wanted to find out more about the Federal Government's plans for Canada's 150th birthday celebrations in 2017. We weren't disappointed. On our way to Ottawa, we had lunch with Jan Bonhomme. So told us about her wonderful plans for the *Eastern Ontario Event Centre*. The *Centre* will be bigger and better in the new year. Great news for eastern events! We'll let you know more in the spring. After our visit to Ottawa, it was off to Bobcaygeon and *Kawartha Settlers' Village*. They were having their annual *Kawartha Lakes Festival of Trees*. What a great event! Judi and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit. At home there was *Cobourg's* annual *Santa Claus Parade*. Santa also visited our eastern neighbour, *Port Hope!*

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](#).



"Head Elf with Santa and Rudolf"  
North Pole



"Cow area"  
Royal Winter Fair



"Great products at the Fair"  
Royal Winter Fair



## Nomad's December Event List...

December will, of course, be a month of joy and goodies! Here's a list of some of the events happening this month.

November 29 - December 1, 2013 - [Bob Merkley Memorial Silver Stick Tournament](#) (Midland)

November 30 - December 1, 2013 - [Christmas in the District](#) (Western Fair District, London)

November 30 - December 1, 2013 - [Christmas at Black Creek](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)

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

December 1 - December 31, 2013 - [Stones 'n Bones Museum](#) (Sarnia)

December 1, 2013 - [Burford Historical Society Christmas Concert](#) (Burford, County of Brant)

December 1, 2013 - January 31, 2014 - [Winter Festival of Lights](#) (Niagara Falls)

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)

December 1, 2013 - [Weston Santa Claus Parade](#) (Toronto)

December 4, 2013 - [Heritage Luncheon](#) (Hutchison House, Peterborough)

December 5 - 8, 2013 - [Christmas Craft Show](#) (Western Fair District, London)

December 5 - 8, 2013 - [Christkind!](#) (Kitchener)

December 6, 2013 - [Mount Forest Santa Claus Parade](#) (Mount Forest)

December 6 - 7, 2013 - [Dicken's Dinner - Old Cheeseman's Christmas](#) (Fanshawe Pioneer Village, London)

December 6 - 8, 2013 - [A Country Christmas Remembered](#) (Spencerville)

December 6 - 8, 2013 - [Bob Merkley Memorial Silver Stick Tournament](#) (Midland)

December 6, 2013 - January 4, 2014 - [Alight at Night Festival](#) (Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg)

December 7, 2013 - [Twas the Night Before Christmas](#) (Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton)

December 7, 2013 - [Christmas by Lamplight](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)

December 7, 2013 - [30 Craft Market](#) (Peterborough)

December 7, 2013 - [Etobicoke-Lakeshore Santa Claus Parade](#) (Toronto)

December 7, 2013 - [Hanover Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade](#) (Hanover)



"Santa's Workshop"

Kawartha Lakes Festival of Trees - Bobcaygeon



"Christmas Carollers"

Kawartha Lakes Festival of Trees - Bobcaygeon



"Lots of Christmas Trees"

Kawartha Lakes Festival of Trees - Bobcaygeon

Please see *Nomad's December Event List...* on page 6

*Nomad's December Event List...* from page 5

- December 7, 2013 - [Wiarton Santa Claus Parade](#) (Wiarton)  
 December 7, 2013 - [Dundalk Santa Claus Parade](#) (Dundalk)  
 December 7, 2013 - [Durham Santa Claus Parade](#) (Durham)  
 December 7, 2013 - [Meaford Santa Claus Parade](#) (Meaford)  
 December 7 - 8, 2013 - [Gift Giving Show](#) (Fort Henry, Kingston)  
 December 7 - 8, 2013 - [Christmas By Candlelight](#) (Lang Pioneer Village)  
 December 7 - 8, 2013 - [Christmas in the District](#) (Western Fair District, London)  
 December 7 - 8, 2013 - [Christmas at Black Creek](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)  
 December 7 - 8, 2013 - [A Visit with St. Nicholas](#) (Fanshawe Pioneer Village, London)  
 December 8, 2013 - [Christmas Table](#) (Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton)  
 December 8, 2013 - [Christmas Dinners](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)  
 December 8, 2013 - [Kemble & District Non-Motorized Santa Claus Parade](#) (Kemble)  
 December 13, 2013 - [30 Craft Market](#) (Peterborough)  
 December 13, 2013 - [Friday the 13th in Port Dover](#) (Port Dover)  
 December 14, 2013 - [Twas the Night Before Christmas](#) (Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton)  
 December 14, 2013 - [Christmas by Lamplight](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)  
 December 14, 2013 - [Holstein Non-Motorized Santa Claus Parade](#) (Holstein)  
 December 14, 2013 - [Nuestadt Santa Claus Parade](#) (Nuestadt)  
 December 14 - 15, 2013 - [Christmas in the District](#) (Western Fair District, London)  
 December 14 - 15, 2013 - [Christmas at Black Creek](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)  
 December 14 - 15, 2013 - [A Visit with St. Nicholas](#) (Fanshawe Pioneer Village, London)  
 December 15, 2013 - [Christmas in the Country](#) (Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton)  
 December 15, 2013 - [Brunch with Santa](#) (Western Fair District, London)  
 December 15, 2013 - [Christmas Dinners](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)  
 December 20, 2013 - [Burford Figure Skating Club Christmas Ice Follies](#) (Burford, County of Brant)  
 December 21, 2013 - [Twas the Night Before Christmas](#) (Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton)

Please see *Nomad's December Event List...* on page 7



"Santa poses with Judi"  
Kawartha Lakes Festival of Trees - Bobcaygeon



"Horse drawn wagon ride"  
Kawartha Lakes Festival of Trees - Bobcaygeon



"Christmas Gazebo"  
Kawartha Lakes Festival of Trees - Bobcaygeon



"Christmas By Candlelight"  
Lang Pioneer Village - Keene



"Cobourg Band"  
Cobourg Santa Claus Parade



"Port Hope Band"  
Port Hope Santa Claus Parade

*Nomad's December Event List...* from page 6

December 21, 2013 ~ [Christmas by Lamplight](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)

December 21, 2013 ~ [Chatsworth Santa Claus Parade](#) (Chatsworth)

December 21 - 22, 2013 ~ [Christmas in the District](#) (Western Fair District, London)

December 21 - 22, 2013 ~ [Christmas at Black Creek](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)

December 22, 2013 ~ [Christmas Dinners](#) (Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto)

December 25, 2013 ~ **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

December 31, 2013 ~ [New Years in the District](#) (Western Fair District, London)

December 31, 2013 ~ [New Year's Eve Niagara Falls](#) (Niagara Falls)

December 31, 2013 ~ [Toronto New Year's Eve](#) (Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto)

December 31, 2013 ~ [Toronto Zoo New Year's Eve Family Countdown](#) (Toronto Zoo, Toronto)

December 31, 2013 ~ [Ottawa New Year's Eve](#) (Ottawa)

## Santa Is Coming To Town!

by Festival Nomad Correspondent, Carol Law

So how does a holiday parade actually happen? Well, it takes a year of planning by a dedicated committee who are able to engage sponsors and lots more volunteers. Oh, and don't forget to book Santa early!

This season, while participating with the Newmarket Citizens Band in 10 parades, I learned about different ways that the holiday parade makes its way to your town. There are huge logistic and financial considerations that must be overseen and coordinated. Models include: Town counselor engages an ad hoc committee, Ad Hoc committee is given permission by Town council following a deposition, Business Association strikes a committee, Lions or Rotary Club steering committee, or the Town's Recreation department organizes the event. In almost all cases all of these become involved in some way.

A small town parade, as an example, might need a steering committee of 8-10 volunteers, a team of 30 -50 + parade day volunteers, 30 - 80 entries, and a budget of \$9,000 - \$14,000. Funding is raised through sponsors, business float entry fees, and sometimes funds or services donated by the town. There are more details than Santa has toys in his pack!

Expenses for a community effort? There are permit(s) fees to book the parade route, rentals for barricades/port-a-potties, hall meeting space, advertising flyers/banners/ads, entertainment fees for bands/Buskers, pay duty officers for traffic control, golf cart rental, walkie/talkie rental, on site first aid response, performing animal paperwork, admin to manage all those sponsors/entries/volunteers, and many other small details that are event specific and add up.

Please see *Santa Is Coming To Town...* on page 8

*Santa Is Coming To Town...* from page 7

All worth it to create a time for the whole community to come together to celebrate the event and the community and create great memories. Laughing children, proud families; suddenly those around you on the parade route become your neighbours and what an amazing feeling! Bringing Santa to town is no small feat! So next parade, cheer long and loud and enjoy the celebration of your community!

## **Twas The Week Before Christmas...**

*A Volunteer's Adaption of Clement Clark Moore's "The Night Before Christmas" - by Carol Law*

*Twas the week before Christmas, when all through the town  
Volunteers were busy, scurrying around  
Completing every festive toy drive, parade, and fair  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;*

*The children had done all their holiday concerts  
We clapped oh so hard at their very best efforts  
Committees having shared some holiday cheer  
Had even made plans to start early next year!*

*When out in the driveway arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my laptop to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew with my flash,  
Tore open the shutters and saw a great bash.*

*The moon fell on the faces, row after row  
Of volunteers ready to put on a show  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a group of eight willing to run it next year!  
They needed a leader, so they stopped to ask  
Did I think that I might be up to the task?  
More volunteers than the eye could see  
And many of these were known to me:*

*"Now, Danielle! now, David! now, Patricia and Vondre!  
On, Connie! on Cameron! on, Desiree and Brandon!  
To the top of the street, to the steps of city hall,  
To make holiday magic for one and for all.*

*As volunteers started, more volunteers came  
The toughest challenge to them was but a mere game  
So out in the community the volunteers flew  
With good will and good cheer, and the committee too,*

*And then in a twinkling, they arrived on the route  
The whole town had turned out to cheer and to hoot  
As the parade made its way through the streets of the town  
We all knew that Santa Claus soon would be found.*

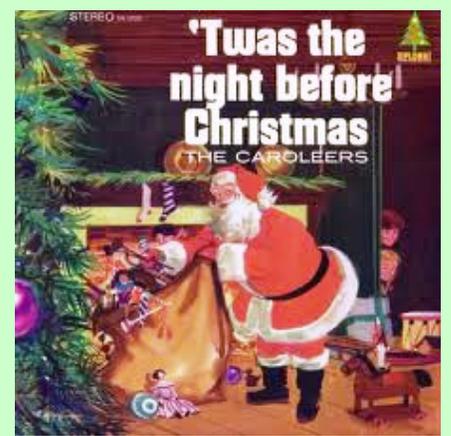
*He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye, he paused and called out,  
Volunteers are the best! They sure help me out.*

*Straight to work, the dedicated volunteers went  
Helped spread holiday cheer with a passionate bent  
Parades, concerts, bazaars, and toy drives too  
Those volunteers sure knew what to do!*

*They finished each task with much energy and mirth  
Bringing happiness to all and a little peace upon Earth  
I thanked them heartily as they drove out of sight,  
"HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!"*



*"Christmas By Candlelight"*  
Lang Pioneer Village - Keene



*"Santa"*  
Twas The Night Before Christmas



*"Not a creature was stirring..."*  
Twas The Night Before Christmas



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