



# Festival Notes

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## The Celebration Continues...

By Gary McWilliams, *the Festival Nomad*

Ontario communities continue to celebrate their heritage and uniqueness! Lately I have been receiving a number of e-mails from festival organizers who are promoting the distinctiveness of their communities and festival. The Town of Kingsville is holding its 39<sup>th</sup> **Migration Festival** (<http://www.migrationfestival.ca/>). This festival, held in October, celebrates the legacy of its most famous descendant, conservationist Jack Miner. The village of Rosseau is holding its first **Rosseau Classic Cruise** (<http://www.rosseauclassiccruise.com/>). Here classic cars and antique boats will be feature along with the opportunity to cruise Lake Rosseau on the *M.V. IDYLLWOOD* with **Sunset Cruises** (<http://www.sunsetcruises.ca/>) and Captain Randy Potts. Shelburne celebrates its own uniqueness through its famous **Canadian Open Old Time Fiddle Championships** (<http://www.shelburnefiddlecontest.on.ca/>)! An event that fills Shelburne's air with the sweet sounds of fiddle music and has so for 57 years! So much to see and do in Ontario!

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*"So much to see in Ontario!"*

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## A Month of Summer Storms and More...

This was a month of unpredictable storms! They say that this July had record water falls and I can believe it. The **Cobourg Waterfront Festival** was rained on more than any other year I can remember. It was also a month of unpredictable illness. On Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, we were on our way to visit the **Peterborough Festival of Lights**. We had driven about half way when Judi became quite ill! We turned around and went back home. The next weekend Judi was fine and we visited **Upper Canada Village**. Here we really got our monies worth, two visits for one! Our first visit was to an 1812 battle re-enactment and the second to the Village itself. The next day we were scheduled to go to the **Farmerville Exhibition** in Athens, but illness struck Judi again. The following weekend Judi was still a little under the weather, but I was able to convince my daughter, Ainsley, to accompany me to **Fiesta Buckhorn** for wine and food tasting (a real hardship!). On Friday of the next week we were off to **Collingwood** and the **Elvis Festival**!



Upper Canada Village

Please see *A Month of Summer...* on page 2

*A Month of Summer ... from page 1*

Disaster struck again on Saturday. Cobourg was struck with a number of summer thunderstorms! The amount of rain that fell created a dubious record for the area! As a result we canceled our trip to Kingston's Fort Henry and their famous Military Tattoo. A very tough month!

August is shaping up to be a very productive month, barring weather and illness! The following is the line up of events and attractions we hope to visit:

August 2<sup>nd</sup> - Rosseau Classic Cruise  
 August 3<sup>rd</sup> - Canal Days in Port Colborne  
 August 6<sup>th</sup> - Peterborough Festival of Lights  
 August 9<sup>th</sup> - Canadian Open Old Time Fiddle Championships in Shelburne  
 August 10<sup>th</sup> - Kingston Sheep Dog Trials  
 August 17<sup>th</sup> - Rural Ramble Farm Tour in Northumberland County  
 August 23<sup>rd</sup> - Fort Henry's War of 1812 Fire Power Weekend  
 August 28<sup>th</sup> - Diefenbunker in Carp  
 August 31<sup>st</sup> - Burlington Ribfest

Obviously we can't guarantee that we will visit all of these, but we are certainly going to try!

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*"The sound of the cannons being fired..."*

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**"Dead Men Talking"**  
 1812 Re-enactment Battle  
 Upper Canada Village

## Dead Men Talking!

Over the past few months Judi and I have visited a number of military re-enactments. They are great fun to see and experience! The sound of the cannons being fired and the smell of gunpowder all add to the adventure! Most of these re-enactments take place during the hot summer months and many of the re-enactors wear stifling wool uniforms. It makes me hot and sweaty just thinking about it! The re-enactors attention to detail is legendary. Everything has to be perfect, true to the period they are depicting. Walking through one of their encampments, you can actually visualize yourself being back in time! On the battlefield it is even more captivating. You can feel the intensity of the battle! Guns firing, smoke filling the air, soldiers marching and officers shouting orders, advances and retreats, all for the sake of authenticity! As the battle progresses, soldiers begin to fall as though they have been shot! They lie there as their comrades walk over them! The sun scorches their fallen bodies! Truly "in the heat of the battle"! There is so much happening; it's hard to take it all in! Who notices that some of the "dead" have dragged themselves to the shade of the "old oak tree"? Who can tell that there are "dead men talking"!



**1812 Re-enactment Battle**  
 Upper Canada Village



Upper Canada Village  
"From father to son"



Upper Canada Village  
Battle Re-enactment  
"The Doctor is IN!"



Fiesta Buckhorn  
"Great Food!"

## Festival Ideas...

Each month this section features ideas gained from attending so many festivals. For the August issue we want to talk about garage sales. A few weeks ago I wrote an article on "The Adventures of a Festival Nomad" blog about this subject. We are republishing it for your enjoyment/information?

### One Man's Garbage...

Did you ever notice how many "Garage Sales" there are around the *festivals* you've visited? I have, and there are a lot! They say, "One person's garbage is another person's treasures!" I believe it and *festivals* certainly breathe life into that old axiom. What is even more telling is that many festivals incorporate some type of "Garage Sale" into their activities, such as "Book Sales", "Antique Shows" and "Flea Markets"! Let's face it, *Garage Sales* are a great way to recycle. One person wants to get rid of something while another is willing to buy it and, as *Yakoff Smirnoff* might say, "What a concept!" Even internet companies, very large internet companies have gotten into the act. Take "e-bay" for example they have built their whole website mega-company on the "One person's garbage" principle. And I have just discovered a new internet company that has taken the "Garage Sale" concept to a new level! The site, **Garage Sale Gateway** (Website: <http://www.garagesalegateway.com/>), offers members, both sellers and buyers, unique *Garage Sale* opportunities. For buyers, the site sends out e-mail alerts about upcoming *Garage Sales* in their area. It's done in plenty of time so that enthusiastic buyer members can plan their "Garage Sale" routine in advance. This means less time driving and more time finding that perfect "treasure"! For sellers, it gives them a "free" way of promoting their *Garage Sales* to a targeted market. And, after their *Garage Sale* is over, the **Garage Sale Gateway** provides a safe and easy way to sell excess "treasures", great for both sellers and buyers! What I like about this site is that they recognize the synergy between *Garage Sales* and *Festivals*. They see how festivals and events help and add to the "Garage Sale" experience. If you think I am bias, I am, because I am working with the folks at **Garage Sale Gateway** to get the "festival and event" message out to as many festival enthusiasts as possible. Who know, maybe there's a "Garage Sale Nomad" out there!



**Fiesta Buckhorn**  
"Great Wine!"



**Collingwood Elvis Festival**  
"Elvis is in the HOUSE!"



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## Festival Tips

### "Face Wipes..."

It's always good to carry moist "face wipes" with you during festival outings. This is especially true if you have kids - dirty faces, sticky hands and worse! They are also great for adults - cleaning hands before a meal or after using a washroom. Not all festival washroom facilities have clean-up sinks. Another great idea if you don't like the idea of the chemicals they use in "face wipes" is to take a few wet washcloths and freeze them the night before. Put them into your freezer bag and use them throughout the day. These can be used at the festival for washing up or for cooling down on a hot humid day! No matter which method you prefer, each is a wonderful boon to festival visitors.

*NOTE: If you have "festival tip" please let us know. We are always interested in new ideas. Just e-mail your ideas to us at [gary@ontariofestivalsvisited.ca](mailto:gary@ontariofestivalsvisited.ca).*

## "The Adventures of the Festival Nomad"

Each week I write a blog under the title of "The Adventure of the Festival Nomad". The Festival Nomad Blog is a humorous and hopefully educational recounting about the festivals and events Judi and I have visited, the people we have met and the things we have learned along the way. We cover a different topic each week. Past issues of *Festival Notes* have featured some of our articles. If you haven't already "discovered" the blog, it can be found at <http://www.ontariofestivalsvisited.ca/nomad.html>. I hope you will take the opportunity to read some or all of the articles! I enjoy writing them, so I hope you will enjoy reading them too. If you have any comments along the way, feel free to publish them on the blog sight.

Sincerely,

*Gary McWilliams*

"The Festival Nomad"