

# Canadian Folk Festival Directory

We try to produce a listing of all festivals in Canada with significant traditional music content, with as much information on them as possible given our space constraints, but realistically we fall short of our goal. Some festivals we don't know about, some don't respond, some have personnel changes and we lose touch. We get information from other agencies, but these vary widely in the amount and kind of information they give us.

We would appreciate being given information on festivals which should be included and aren't. And if you have a flat-rate long distance phone plan, or Internet access and time on your hands, and want to help out, we'd be happy to hive off part of the task of maintaining this directory to enthusiastic volunteers. [JL]

## ALBERTA

*Dept. of Economic Development & Tourism, 307 Legislature Bldg., Edmonton Alta. T5K 2B6*

*Alberta Arts Festivals Assn., 601-10136 100 St. NW, Edmonton, Alta. T5J 0P1; 1-888-878-3378; <artfests@compuserve.ab.ca>; <www.discoveralberta.com/artfests>*

September 4, 1999

**CALGARY HIGHLAND GAMES.** Shouldice Athletic Park, Calgary Norma Siegle, 236 Edenwold Dr. NW, Calgary, Alta. T3A 3S3 (403) 241-2368 (res.); 241-5709 (fax); <ctimages@cadvision.com>; <www.calgaryhighlandgames.org>

"The general public is invited to the Calgary Highland Games. Witness the brute strength of the competitors as they toss the caber, listen to the melody of the Great Highland Bagpipes and enjoy the swing of the kilts as 300 Highland dancers compete. Enjoy a stroll down the Vendors' Lane in search of Celtic trinkets, tapes and clothing. Food and beverages will be available throughout the day. The massed pipes and drums, approximately 20 bands playing in unison, mark the closing of the competition at 5:00 p.m." Annual since 1927.

September 4 and 5, 1999

**CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES.** Centennial Park, Canmore Sally Garen, Box 8102, Canmore, Alta. T1W 2T8 (403) 678-9454 (bus.); 678-3385 (fax); <chg@telusplanet.net>; <www.discovercanmore.com/highlandgames/>

"Full Highland games, Celtic concert, beer garden, ceilidh and more." Annual since 1991.

October 16, 1999

**DANCING IN THE ROCKIES CELTIC PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL.** Community Center, Bragg Creek Ceilidh Revue, 6 Benchlands Drive, Cochrane, Alta. T0L 0W1 (403) 932-5321; 932-0608 (fax); <greenwcl@telusplanet.net>

Annual since 1997.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Tourism British Columbia, 1117 Wharf St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Z2; 1-800-663-6000*

September 1999 (tba)

**FIRST NATIONS FESTIVAL.** Westminster Quay Public Market, New Westminster; (604) 520-3881

September 3 to 5, 1999

**CHILLIWACK BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL.** Antique Powerland, Chilliwack Rod Hudson, 45899 Henderson Ave., Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 2X6 (604) 702-7302 (res.); 792-2069 (bus.); 792-2640 (fax)

"A traditional bluegrass festival: five main contests, workshops, open mic and a host of activities for children." Annual since 1987.

September 3 to 6, 1999

**KIMBERLEY INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL AND OKTOBERFEST.** Coronation Park, Kimberley Chamber of Commerce, 350 Ross St., Kimberley, B.C. V1A 2Z9 (250) 427-3666 (bus.); 427-5378 (fax); <kimberleybc@catapqult.com>; <members.tripod.com/~pizzadudecan/oktindex.htm>

"Multicultural folk dance event in combination with Oktoberfest." Annual since 1987.

September 17 to 19, 1999

**WHISTLER JAZZ & BLUES WEEKEND.** Whistler Resort (604) 932-3938

October 2 to 4, 1999

**ROOTS & BLUES FESTIVAL.** Various venues in Salmon Arm Linda Tanaka, Box 21, Salmon Arm, B.C. V1E 4N2 (250) 832-6148 (res.); 832-6148 (fax); <folk@jetstream.net>; <www.jetstream.net/users/spence/index.html>

"A weekend indoor festival with a broad range of Canadian and international performers, featuring full-length concerts, dances, improptu sessions, workshops, food, merchandise, crafts." Annual since 1991.

## NEW BRUNSWICK

*Tourism New Brunswick, Dept. 339, P.O. Box 12345, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5C3; <nbtourism@gov.nb.ca>; Website: <http://www.gov.nb.ca/tourism/>*

September 8 to 12, 1999

**HARVEST JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL.** Fredericton 1-888-622-5837. Traditional acoustic blues to progressive jazz.

## NOVA SCOTIA

*Tourism Nova Scotia, P.O. Box 130, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2M7; 1-800-565-0000*

October 8 to 16, 1999

**CELTIC COLOURS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL.** Cape Breton Island 363 Charlotte Street, Suite 1, Sydney, N.S. B1P 1E1 Max MacDonald and Joella Foulds (Festival Organizers), (902) 539-8800; Dave Mahalik (Information Officer), 562-6700; Terry Smith and Melanie Miller (Marketing), 539-0044; <colours@chatsubo.com>; <www.celtic-colours.com>

"Cape Breton Island has an indigenous Celtic culture that continues to live in the people that call it their home. Through their language, dance, fiddles, pipes, guitars and song, they carry on a deeply-rooted tradition that has survived over 200 years. The third annual Celtic Colours International Festival brings together talented musicians, dancers, and culture bearers from around the world to take part in the many concerts, workshops, square dances and ceilidhs that span the nine days and nights of the Festival. The internationally renowned festival will feature 34 shows in communities over the island, all celebrating our living culture with the rest of the world. Consider this your invitation to come ceilidh with us." Annual since 1997.

## NUNAVUT

*Nunavut Tourism, P.O. Box 1450, Iqaluit, N.W.T. X0C 0H0 1-800-491-7910; <nunatour@nunamet.com>; <www.nunatour.nt.ca>*

*Exact dates are not always given, or are subject to change—calling the organizers to verify before heading for a Northern community is a good idea. We are assuming that cultural events in First Nations communities will include traditional music.*

September 7, 1999

**HAMLET DAY.** Arviat (867) 857-2841 Includes square dances.

Mid-September 1999

**UQSHUQTUQ MUSIC FESTIVAL.** Gjoa Haven Musicians from across the Kitikmeot. (867) 360-7141

## ONTARIO

Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Recreation, 77 Bloor St. W.  
Toronto, Ont. M7A 2R9  
Ontario Canada Tourism, 1-800-ONTARIO (668-2746);  
<www.ontario-canada.com>  
Ontario Council of Folk Festivals, P.O. Box 882,  
Peterborough, Ont. K9J 7A2

August 30 to September 6, 1999

ASHKENAZ: A FESTIVAL OF NEW YIDDISH CULTURE.  
Harbourfront Centre, Toronto  
Carolyn Rosen, c/o Harbourfront Centre, 410 Queen's Quay West,  
Toronto, Ont. M5V 2Z3 (416) 973-4655 (bus.); 973-6055 (fax);  
<caro@harbourfront.on.ca>; <www.harbourfront.on.ca>

September 1, 1999

FIELD OF DREAMS FOLKFEST. Big Bay General Store, Big Bay  
Pat Carriere, c/o Big Bay General Store, RR#2 Warton, Ont.  
N0H 2T0; (519) 534-5189 (bus.); <pat.carriere@canada.com>;  
<www.summerfolk.org/fod.html>

"An intimate folk festival in a rural setting. Features singer/songwriters and a variety of acoustic musicians. Each festival ends with a community campfire and jam. Every Saturday night between July 1 and Labour Day, we feature one of our festival performers hosting an open stage and jam." Annual since 1997.

September 4 and 5, 1999

KINGSTON CELTIC FESTIVAL AT FORT HENRY. Wolfe Island  
1-800-437-2233; (613) 934-7388

September 17 to 19, 1999

OWEN SOUND CELTIC FESTIVAL. OSCVI Auditorium, Owen Sound  
Sandra Murray, 808 2nd Ave. E., Owen Sound, Ont. N4K 2H4  
(519) 376-1440; <smurray@city.owen-sound.ca>

September 18 and 19, 1999

WYE MARSH FESTIVAL. Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre  
Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, P.O. Box 100, Midland, Ont. L4R 4K6  
(705) 526-7809; 526-3294 (fax); <wymarsh@cryston.ca>

October 22 to 24, 1999

ONTARIO COUNCIL OF FOLK FESTIVALS ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Holiday Inn Conference Centre, Barrie  
Kathey Smith, 1896 Glenview, Pickering, Ont. L1V 1W8  
(705) 741-3686 (phone & fax); <ocff@icommm.ca>

January 24, 2000

ROBBIE BURNS DAY CELEBRATION. Mackenzie House, Toronto  
Janet Schwartz (Site Manager, Mackenzie House), c/o Heritage  
Toronto, 205 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont. M5B 1N2  
(416) 392-6915 (bus.); 392-0114 (fax);  
<info@torontohistory.on.ca>; <www.torontohistory.on.ca>

"Dance, enjoy music, drink mulled cider, eat some Scottish foods and treats—including the infamous HAGGIS! This rollicking event will be in honour of the 240th birthday of the also infamous Scots poet, Robbie Burns. Music will fill the house—we'll have Scottish country dancing in the lecture room, a harpist in the parlour and bagpipes (parlour type) in the historic kitchen. The highlight of the day is when we pipe in the Haggis, and, after it is addressed, sharing it among our visitors." Annual since 1986.

March 26, 2000

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM CELTIC CELEBRATION. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto  
Ian G. McGregor, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C6  
(416) 586-5797

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Department of Economic Development and Tourism, 4th Floor, Shaw Building, Box 2000, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7N8

September 3 to 5, 1999

EVANGELINE AREA AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION AND ACADIAN FESTIVAL. Abram-Village, Wellington  
Louis Arsenault, Box 37, Wellington, P.E.I. C0B 2E0  
(902) 854-2869; 854-3300 (Abram-Village);  
<festivalexpo.teleco.org>

September 16 to 19, 1999

P.E.I. STORYTELLING FESTIVAL. Various venues island-wide  
1-877-294-9355; <www.isn.net/storytellers>

September 17, 1999

COME TO THE CEILIDH. Confederation Centre of the Arts,  
Charlottetown  
1-800-565-0278; <www.piping.pe.ca>  
"Presented by the College of Piping. A cast of more than 60 pipers, drummers, Highland dancers, step-dancers, fiddlers and singers."

September 18 to 20, 1999

GENE MacLELLAN SONG FESTIVAL. Waterfront, Summerside  
Carolyn MacKinnon or Phillip MacLellan (902) 888-2254

November 5 and 6, 1999

BLUEGRASS JUBILEE. Jubilee Theatre, Summerside  
Marnie Noye (902) 436-5553

## QUEBEC

Tourism Québec, 1010, rue Ste-Catherine Ouest, bureau  
430, Montréal, P.Q. H3B 1G2  
Conseil québécois du patrimoine vivant, c.p. 1442, Québec,  
P.Q. G1K 7G7

September 3 to 6, 1999

CARREFOUR MONDIAL DE L'ACCORDÉON. Montmagny  
Michel Têtu, 301, boul. Taché est, C.P. 71, Montmagny, P.Q.  
G5V 3S3 Bus. & fax: (418) 248-7927;  
<accordeo@globetrotter.qc.ca>;  
<http://globetrotter.qc.ca/accordeon>

"Événement majeur annuel mettant en valeur le monde fascinant de l'accordéon. Rendez-vous unique auquel participent des accordéonistes provenant des quatre coins du monde. Venez entendre divers styles et répertoires musicaux lors des concerts internationaux aux soirées de danse, aux animations extérieures et dans les restaurants. Participants." Annual since 1989.

October 7 to 11, 1999

QUEBEC'S INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF TRADITIONAL ARTS. LE FESTIVAL INTERNATIONALE DES ARTS TRADITIONNELS Old Port, Quebec (near Place Royale)  
Chantale Coulombe, c/o Centre de valorisation du patrimoine vivant, 310, boul. Langelier, Box 241, Québec P.Q. G1K 5N3  
"Featuring the traditions of Louisiana's Mardi Gras and Québec's Mi-carême. Saturday workshops on the making of masks and costumes. Join in the symbolic quest of ingredients for the preparation of the traditional gumbo stew, hosted by our guests from Basile, Louisiana and accompanied by musicians. We invite you as well to participate in the Mi-Carême parade later in the afternoon. Our representatives from Natashquan and from Île aux Grues, Québec, will take part in the parade in their magnificent costumes, accompanied by all the other Québec and Cajun artists participating in the festival. The public is invited to dress up from head to toe to assist in the parade and to participate in the gumbo dinner and dance in the evening. All of these activities will take place rain or shine."

March 11 and 12, 2000

MONTREAL CELTIC FESTIVAL. Spectrum, Montreal  
Montreal Spectrum, 318 St. Catherine West, Montreal, P.Q.  
H2X 2A1 (514) 790-1245; 861-5851; <apatrik@total.net>  
Annual since 1992.

## SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society, 2431 8th Ave.,  
Regina, Sask. S4R 5J7  
Tourism Saskatchewan, 500-1900 Albert St., Regina, Sask.  
S4P 4L9; 1-800-667-7191; <travel.info@sasktourism.com>;  
<www.sasktourism.com/ev>

September 3 to 5, 1999

MÉTIS FALL FESTIVAL. Prince Albert  
(306) 763-63391 Includes jigging, fiddling and square dancing.

September 11, 1999

DUNDEE HARVEST EXTRAVAGANZA. Regina Beach  
(306) 731-2416 Includes old time fiddling.

September 11 and 12, 1999

HARVEST AT THE MANOR. Rose Bush Manor, Watson  
(306) 287-3362; <rbacres@sk.sympatico.ca>  
Includes clog dancing and square dancing.

September 12 to 19, 1999

TREATY FOUR GATHERING. Fort Qu'Appelle  
(306) 332-1874 Includes round dance and powwow

September 17 to 19, 1999

COWBOY POETRY GATHERING AND WESTERN ART SHOW.  
Maple Creek (306) 662-2434  
"Three days of pickin', singin' and recitin'."

September 24 to 26, 1999

SASKATOON POLKA FEST. Saskatoon  
(306) 652-9111

September 25 and 26, 1999

TAPESTRAMA. Prince Albert  
(306) 922-0405  
Multicultural festival includes music and dance.

October 1 and 2, 1999

WESTERN CANADIAN OLD TYME FIDDLING CHAMPIONSHIP. Don MacRae (306) 773-8924

October 2, 1999

POLKA PARTY. Kerrobert  
(306) 463-3194

October 17 to 23, 1999

HUMBOLDT OKTOBERFEST WEEK. Humboldt  
(306) 682-3444 Includes 4th annual Accordionfest.

October 23, 1999

GOLDEN FIDDLERS & ROTARY CLUB CONTEST. Nipawin  
Leo Black (306) 862-9614

October 24, 1999

GOSPEL JAMBOREE. Melfort (306) 752-3058

October 30, 1999

PARKLAND FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION CONTEST.  
Paul Olson (306) 468-2786

November 13 and 14, 1999

TRADITIONAL VETERAN'S POWWOW. White Bear First Nation  
(306) 577-2064 Includes traditional style singing contest.

November 20, 1999

ITUNA TRADE FAIR, TEA & BAKE SALE. Ituna  
(306) 795-2272 Includes Ukrainian dancing.

February 4 and 5, 2000

MID-WINTER CELTIC FESTIVAL. Regina  
Iain MacDonald (306) 565-2938; <iainmacd@sk.sympatico.ca>;  
<http://www.gpfn.sk.ca/culture/arts/pipeband/index.html>

February 12 to 27, 2000

PRINCE ALBERT WINTER FESTIVAL. Prince Albert  
(306) 764-7595 Includes fiddlers' championship.

February 20, 2000

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FUR TRADING POST. Last Mountain House Provincial Historic Park, Craven  
(306) 787-2700 Includes traditional First Nations activities.

February 25 to 27, 2000

DENARE BEACH WINTER FESTIVAL. Denare Beach  
(306) 362-2170 Includes jigging.

March 2 to 4, 2000

MID-WINTER BLUES FESTIVAL. Regina  
(306) 757-9436; 352-3388

## YUKON TERRITORY

Yukon Tourism, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 2C6

October 15 to 22, 1999

FRANCOFÊTE FESTIVAL. Whitehorse  
Carole Trotter (867) 668-2662; 668-3511 (fax)

February 18 to 20, 2000

FROSTBITE MUSIC FESTIVAL. Yukon Arts Centre and Yukon College, Whitehorse  
Karen McCann, c/o Frostbite Music Society, 211 Hanson St., Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 1Y3  
(867) 668-4921 (bus.); 667-2518 (fax);  
<frostbite@polarcom.com>; <www.frostbite.net>  
"The COOLEST Festival North of 60, representing many musical styles and genres, with a little 'something for everyone'." Annual since 1979.