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 T7E 3E6

Alberta Arts Festivals Assn., 601 - 10136 100 St. NW, Edmonton, Alta. T5J OP1; 1-888-878-3378; <arts@compuserve.com>; <www.discoveralberta.com/artsfest>

May 23 to 27, 2000 CALGARY INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S FESTIVAL. In and around the Arts Centre, Calgary E. Jane Mawby (Administrator), 705 8th Ave. SW, Calgary, Alta. T2G 0K9; (403) 294-7414 (bus); 294-7425 (fax); admin@calgarychildfest.org; <www.calgarychildfest.com>; <archives@island.net>;

February 25 to 27, 2000 CANADA’S COWBOY FESTIVAL. Telus Convention Centre, Calgary Jill Skidmore, c/o Telus Convention Centre, 120 9th Ave. SE, Calgary, Alberta T2G 0P3 (403) 261-8522 (bus); 1-800-822-2679 (bus); 261-8510 (Fax); <jill@calgaryconvention.com>; <www.calgaryconvention.com>

Branding dance, drumming, highland dance and pipe band competitions, workshops, cultural displays, evening ceilidh.

February 19 and 20, 2000 SELKIRK’S FESTIVAL ON THE RED. Red River, Selkirk (204) 482-9571

Including fiddling and jigging competitions.

May 13, 2000 VITRIWKA SPRING CONCERT. Ebenbert (204) 742-3781

"Traditional Ukrainian costumes, dances performed by children 6 to 17 years of age, choral ensemble."

May 27 and 28, 2000 VESELIUKRAJNIA FESTIVAL. Teulon (204) 886-2679

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Northwest Territories Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 3J9; <nwt@gov.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.

Mid-January 2000 RETURN OF THE SUN. Inuvik Leah Oskar, Inuvialuk Elders Society (867) 934-8836; 944-8792 (fax)

April 2000 NATTIK FROLICS. Kuugluktuk (867) 982-4471; 982-3060 (fax)

April 2000 PAKALLAK TIME. Rankin Inlet Rick Denison (867) 645-2895; 645-2146 (fax)

Mid-April 2000 TOONIK TIME. Inuvik Dave St. Louis (867) 979-5617; 979-3712 (fax)

Easter weekend, 2000 KALVIE FROLICS. Umingmaktok Arctic Coast Visitors Centre (867) 983-2228; 983-2302 (fax); Peter Kopaluk, Umingmaktok Hunters and trappers Organization <peterk@polarnet.ca>

Mid-May 2000 HAMLET DAYS. Baker Lake (867) 793-2874; 793-2509 (fax)

May 2000 QAVVARRIK CARNIVAL. Gjoa Haven (867) 360-7151; 360-7009 (fax)
ONTARIO

Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Recreation, 77 Floor St. W., Toronto, Ont. M7A 2R9

Ontario Canada Tourism, 1-800-ONTARIO (668-2746); <www.ontarioto.com>

Ontario Council of Folk Festivals, P.O. Box 882, Peterborough, Ont. K9J 7A2

December 12 and 13, 1999

CHRISTMAS FUN AT WOODLAND. Woodland Centre, Brantford Woodland Centre, 184 Mowah St., Brantford, Ont. N3S 2X2

“(519) 759-2650; www.woodland-centre.on.ca”

“An afternoon of special programming, with storytelling or a craft demonstration, and the Kanza dancers.”

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>;

“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 playing in the parlour and bagpipes (parlor type) being played in the 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.

February 20, 2000

HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL. Wellington County Museum, Fergus/Flora (519) 846-0916; <www.wcm.on.ca>

“Multicultural celebration with entertainment, food and displays.”

February 4 to 13, 2000

KIZUMBA—A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH. Harbourfront Centre, Toronto

(416) 973-3000; <www.harbourfront.on.ca>

“Festivities during African Heritage Month include music, dance, film, storytelling, a comedy cabaret, and more.”

February 21 and 27, 2000

LISTEN UP!—TORONTO FESTIVAL OF STORYTELLING. Harbourfront Centre, Toronto

(416) 656-2445

“A two-day festival filled with workshops, storytelling sets for all ages, music and concerts; afternoon programs are free, morning workshops and evening concerts ticketed.” Annual since 1979.

March 11 and 12, 1999

WAREWORTH MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL. Sandy Flat Sugar Bush, Wareworth (705) 924-2057

Includes old time fiddle music.

March 26, 2000

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM CELTIC CELEBRATION. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto Ian G. McGeechan, 100 Queen’s Park, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C6

(416) 586-5797

April 2, 2000

SPRING MAGIC. Fulton’s Pancake House and Sugarbush, Palenham (613) 256-3867; <www.fultonstown.com>

Includes old time fiddle music.

April 2 to 6

FIDDLES AND STEPS. Town Hall Heritage Theatre, Wingham (519) 357-4082

“The best fiddlers and stepdancers, a toe-tapping, energetic show, in conjunction with the Belleville Maple Syrup Festival.”

April 7 to 9, 2000

TORONTO SPRING THAW. Eastminster United Church, Toronto Tom Caldwell (Toronto Country Dancers), 17 Langiewth Ct., Brampton, Ont. L6Y 1S9 (905) 465-1532 (res.); <rye@worldmap.on.ca>

“Three days of participatory events—contra dance, square dance, couples dancing and music-making. No partners needed, beginners welcome.” Annual since 1995.

April 9, 2000

SPRING MAGIC. Fulton’s Pancake House and Sugarbush, Palenham. See April 2.

April 28 and 29, 1999

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL. Memorial Centre, Brockville

(613) 345-0920

“A variety of entertainment, crafts, demonstrations and foods from around the world.”

April 30, 2000

MUSIC DAY. Whetung Ojibwa Centre, Curve Lake (705) 657-3661; <www.whetung.com>;

“Live performances by First Nations musicians, large selection of CDs and tapes of aboriginal, nature and classical music can be sampled.”

May 13 and 14, 2000

COUNTY CELTIC WEEKEND. County Fairgrounds, Picton

February 27 to 29, 2000

“An event featuring Celtic music and dance, square dance, and live music. Includes old time fiddle music and the ceilidh.” Annual since 1996.

May 20, 2000

WHITBY FOLK FESTIVAL. Courthouse Theatre, Whitby

(905) 620-3867; <www.whitbyfolk.com>;

“A two-day indoor festival.” Annual since 1997.

May 26 to 28, 2000

ODA WA POW WOW. Ottawa-Nepean Tent & Trailer Park, Nepean Mark Mooke, 12 Stirling Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K1P 1P8

(613) 722-3811 (bus.); 722-4600 (fax); <simonec@odawa.on.ca>;

“Native dancers from across North America come together in celebration. Drumming, Native arts and crafts, Native foods.” Annual since 1976.

QUEBEC

Tourism Quebec, 1010, rue Ste-Catherine Ouest, bureau 430, Montréal, QC H3B 1G3

Concerts québécois du patrimoine vivant. c.p. 1442, Québec, QC G1K 7G7

May 4 to 6, 2000

MID-WINTER CELTIC FESTIVAL. Royal Canadian Legion, Regina

(306) 786-2700

Includes fiddlers’ championship, February 25 and 26.

February 12 to 27, 2000

PRINCE ALBERT WINTER FESTIVAL. Prince Albert (306) 764-7995

Includes fiddlers’ championship, February 25 and 26.

February 12 to March 4, 2000

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FUR TRADING POST. Last Mountain House Provincial Historic Park, Cavendish (306) 787-2700

Includes traditional First Nations activities.

February 25 to 27, 2000

DENARI BEACH WINTER FESTIVAL. Denare Beach (306) 362-2170

Includes juggling.

March 2 to 4, 2000

MID-WINTER BLUES FESTIVAL. Regina (306) 757-9436; 352-3382

May 20 and 21, 2000

REGINA HIGHLAND GAMES. Regina

Regina Highland Festival Assn., P.O. Box 3205, Regina, S4P 3H1

(306) 868-2125 (res.); 868-2126 (fax); <ianmacd@sympatico.ca>;

“The Regina Highland Games offers piping, drumming and dancing contests, Celtic music performances, and demonstrations throughout the day. Annual since 1996.”

May 27, 2000

MOOSE JAW HIGHLAND GAMES. Crescent Park, Moose Jaw (306) 655-2938; 692-9355; 655-8928 (fax)

YUKON TERRITORY

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

February 18 to 20, 2000

FROSTBITES 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@yukon.com>;

“The Coldest Festival North of 60, representing many musical styles and genres, with a little ‘something for everyone.’” Annual since 1979.

CAMS AND COURSES

Beginning of October, 2000

CHEHALIS DANCE CAMP. Camp Elphinstone, near Gibsons, B.C. Shelagh Maguire (506) 944-3066 (res.); <shelagh@direct.ca>;

“An out-of-town weekend dance camp, featuring a form of country dance called contra/country. Taught by a caller (as per square dancing), and done to live traditional folk music. Beginners, couples, singles, all are welcome, no membership required. Workshops are given in other dance forms, musical instruments, and related areas. Practitioners tend to transcend into ecstasy.” Annual since 1988.

SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society, 2431 8th Ave., Regina, Sask. S4P 4L5; 1-800-667-2191; <travel.info@sasktourism.com>;

“<www.sasktourism.com/er>”