



ali's CORNER

Once again, the festival season is coming close, and here is some information to help you plan the Southern Ontario section of your cross-Canada festival tour.

London's Home County Folk Festival will take place on July 18, 19 and 20 (same weekend as Vancouver, so make up your mind) in beautiful Victoria Park in downtown London. In recent years this free festival has been very popular and successful, with 3 stages presenting concerts and workshops simultaneously; upwards of 60 craft booths; 8 or 9 good food concessions; and informal workshops under the trees, all in a very attractive, convenient, and compact setting.

As is all too common these days (apart from Alberta it seems) funding a free festival continues to be a major problem for the organizers, and they have experimented with a variety of tactics in recent years. This year, there will be free outdoor evening concerts on Friday and Saturday, where the hat will be passed. On Sunday a special indoor concert with a "name" act supported by festival performers will be staged, at a price. For more details write to:

Home County Folk Festival
Box 4190, Station C
London, Ontario

After the Mariposa Folk Foundation's decision to dispense with its festival (for this year only? Who knows?) a new organization has wasted no time in plucking this plum festival area. The New Toronto Folk Festival kicked off its publicity campaign with a "Special Introductory Offer" concert at \$2.99 on March

23, with such notables as Bill Garrett & Curly Boy Stubbs, Dennis Lepage & Station Road, Ken Whiteley and the Honolulu Heartbreakers, The Mulligan Dancers and Tommy McQueston, Stan Rogers, and Willie P. Bennett, all of whom will presumably also be at the Festival.

Under the artistic direction of Winnipeg-based Mitch Podolak, the Toronto Folk Festival will be held on July 25, 26 and 27 on Olympic Island, next door to Mariposa's old home. This larger, more wooded site will, organizers say, provide better sound separation, and natural enclosures for the various stages. The format of the Winnipeg festival will set the pattern here, with 4 or 5 workshop stages for the daytime activities, and a main stage for evening concerts. Evening concerts should run till after midnight, and arrangements have been made with the city to provide adequate ferry service during and after each day's activities.

The festival has its logo prepared well ahead of time: yet another guitar—three to be precise—masquerading as Canadian geese. I'm afraid I find them more kitsch than folksy. They remind me of those plaster ducks that used to adorn suburban living room walls. Also a goose with a guitar for a body tends to look more like a pregnant duck shot neatly through the middle with a howitzer. For more information (and a picture of the duck) write to the festival at:

24 Ryerson St., Toronto
or call office manager
Mitch Lepage at (416)362-7555.

Moving right ahead to August 8, 9, & 10, we have the Festival of Friends, a free festival held in Gage Park in Hamilton. Director Bill Powell, who also runs Hamilton Wentworth Creative Arts, and Knight II Coffeehouse, was at pains to stress that this should not be interpreted as only a folk festival. Musically, the festival is pretty eclectic, with jazz, blues, contemporary music, rock & roll, country music, and national British & Canadian music as well. There is a main stage and

there will also be several workshops where the emphasis will be on interaction of performers rather than a series of mini concerts. In all, 4 stages will be operating 11 hours a day. This year, due to lack of facilities, there will be no free stage.

In addition to the music the festival will feature a number of other activities designed to attract families. There will be a theatre tent presenting one act plays, mime, dance, a ventriloquist; and in addition there will be what the organizers call "guerilla theatre",—impromptu events around the site.

The craft area now accommodates 250 booths, divided into areas devoted to fine arts, and the "marketplace".

An important part of the festival will be the Children's area, with 3 stages where kids can enjoy hands-on activities, painting, music, stories etc.

For information, accommodation lists etc., write to

Festival of Friends,
21 Augusta Street,
Hamilton, Ontario

As I mentioned in the last issue, Owen Sound's Summerfolk sees a change in Artistic Director from founder Tim Harrison to Ross Gibbons. This year's festival, on the weekend of August 15, 16, and 17 will see more emphasis on a greater variety of folk dancing, including clogging, square dancing, old time and modern, step dancing and movies.

Coming this year will be two musicians from Brittany, Jacques Beauchamp and Gilbert Hervieux. They have been introduced to the area by Toronto pipers Na Cabar Feidh. Playing such instruments as bombarde and accordeon, they are experts in Breton line and set dances.

In addition, Summerfolk will feature local pipers, and The Cape Breton Symphony with John Allan Cameron; blues and jazz will be featured too: David Amram will appear with The Latin Jazz Quintet; and the Original Sloth Band will be there along with the Honolulu Heartbreakers. A special guest, for me anyway, will be Sam Chatmon and his Barbecue Boys.

Tickets will cost \$15 for a weekend pass (\$18 at the gates) and you can get more information from:

Summerfolk,
Georgian Bay Folk Society,
376 10th St. East
Owen Sound, Ontario

And now it's gossip column time—Stan Rogers, quite a star across the country these days, is in the process of putting a new album together. This album, will all the tracks being Stan's own compositions, will move away from the traditional orientation that he has taken in recent years, towards a more contemporary sound. The arrangements will feature drums, piano, strings, with one a cappella number.

Some information arrived recently from the Storytellers School of Toronto. This provides schooling in many aspects of storytelling, from research and collecting of stories to practice in telling them. Students include parents, teachers, librarians, professional storytellers, and folk performers, scholars of the oral tradition, and artists in many fields. They also sponsor the annual Toronto Festival of Storytelling and keep an up-to-date registry of professional storytellers and can refer groups to performers and consultants. Write to them at:

The Storytellers School of Toronto
22 Croft Street
Toronto, Ontario
M4S 2N8

The Country Dance and Song Society of America have just published the programme for their series of dance weeks at Pinewoods, N.Y., this summer. *Bulletin* readers may be interested in their American Dance and Music Week, August 23 to 30. Despite the title, this week is not limited to U.S. music. French Canadian lore will be added, Quebecois step dancing, set dances, cotillions and quadrilles, fiddle tunes, songs and tales. Taking part will be Emile Benoit and Ginette Dubois Roy.

Write to the CDSS at
505 8th Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10018

Alistair Brown