

# Summerfolk at Owen Sound

by Ross Gibbons

Music, dancing, crafts and children's activities are the main elements of Summerfolk. Since the Owen Sound area was settled by the Irish and Scots, Celtic music and dance is an important theme of the Festival. We also feature the work of today's songwriters' music from such North American traditions as old-time, country, blues and jazz; and music from various folk traditions from around the world.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings the Festival features concerts from its amphitheatre stage. Daytimes Saturday and Sunday there are workshops and concerts on six stages. A number of these workshops feature participation sessions in folk dance including square dancing, stepdancing, Highland dancing and more.

The children's area also has a variety of daytime activities (great for children and parents) including puppetry, craft sessions, concerts and creative play.

In the crafts area there are forty displays for craftspeople working in a variety of medium; many of the craftspeople also demonstrate at their booths. An artisans area features special theme demonstrations of heritage craft skills. Other special demonstrations of such pioneer skills as masonry, horseshoeing, sheepshearing and goat husbandry are also featured.

Attendance at Summerfolk is limited to 4,000 persons per day; this keeps the Festival on an intimate human scale. Summerfolk is blessed with a beautiful site and good water for swimming. There is limited camping on an adjacent campsite (first-come/first-served) and

8th Annual

## Owen Sound Summerfolk Festival

Kelso Beach Park (on the shores  
of Georgian Bay Owen Sound.)

August 12, 13, 14th, 1983

Traditional & Contemporary  
music, folk dancing, craft  
displays and demonstrations.  
Children activities and  
swimming.

### Ticket Information:

G.B.F.S.  
Box 521  
Owen Sound, Ont.  
N4K 3B1  
(519) 371-2995

this year, for the first time, reserved camping will be available in a campground less than ten minutes from the Festival.

In closing, I will pass on a wish expressed by some of the folks who contribute their time, talent and energy to make our Festival happen year after year. That wish is to have the opportunity, either through a regional or a national gathering (or preferably through both), to meet, exchange information and share experiences both about general topics and about specific aspects of Festivals. I invite comments on this suggestion from other Festivals, folk clubs and people who are just plain interested in a good future for the folk arts in Canada.

The Eighth Annual Owen Sound Summerfolk Festival will be held August 12, 13, 14, 1983 at Kelso Beach, a waterfront park on the shores of Georgian Bay in the city of Owen Sound.