

A Survey of Folk Festivals

by Sandi Hackler

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I sent out a questionnaire to 26 Folk Festivals and Fiddle competitions. These are the responses. There is a festival in Yellowknife (Folk on the Rocks) that should be included but we just could't seem to make contact. It usually is scheduled for the same dates as Summer Solstice. Its objectives are to encourage Northern talent. They bring people from all corners of the north. Yellowknife has a population of about 10,000 and the festival draws 2,500. They also do festivals in other towns.

I would like to thank everyone for being so cooperative.

A couple of things need explaining. It is difficult to judge attendance at free festivals. Hamilton's guesstimate is based on a constantly full parking lot that holds 3000 cars and an assumption that many people come for only a couple of hours.

Information on payment of musicians — most festivals said "equal where possible." This may seem a little weird but there are instances where equal doesn't apply....like when someone wants to donate service; when there are special grants for special groups; when you have large groups; when someone wants to take part but you know it is not their major source of income; and, of course some of the "big names" wouldn't come. These are exceptions though and not the rule.

FESTIVAL	Summerfolk	Western Canada Old Time Fiddling Championship
QUESTION 1		
1. Name of contact	1. Ross Gibbons	Tony Juffinger
2. Position	2. Art. Dir.	---
3. Age of Fest./83	3. 8 yrs.	18 yrs.
4. Attendance/82	4. 10,000	3,000
5. Pop. of City	5. 20,000 - Owen Sound	15,000 - Swift Current
6. /83 DATES	6. Aug. 12,13,14	Sept. 29,30,Oct. 1
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
1. How many?	1. 14	12
2. Role or type	2. Management team	Members of sponsoring Rotary Club
3. Meetings?	3. monthly	6/yr. --open
VOLUNTEERS	VOLUNTEERS	
1. How many?	1. 300	40
2. How are they thanked?	2. party after Fest	Judges get honorarium and expenses
STAFF	STAFF	
1. # of paid?	1. 1-3	nil
2. Paid equally?	2. no	---
3. Highest and lowest salary in 82/83?	3. paid according to grants as available	---
MEMBERS	MEMBERS	
1. How does one become a member?	1. fee- \$10	must be member of Swift Current Rotary
2. Benefits?	2. Newsletter	none
3. How many?	3. 125	---
FINANCIAL	FINANCIAL	
1. \$\$ in red /black	1. 9,000 (red?)	black
2. Greatest debt?	2. \$47,000	none
3. Total yearly budget /82 & /83	3. /82- \$150,000 /83- \$160,000	/82- \$6,800 /83- approx. \$6,800
4. Value of Assets.	4. \$20,000	---
5. Four largest sources of \$\$\$	5. Gate; Concessions; Grants; Other	Donors; Gate
6. City contribution	6. \$2700	nil
7. 3 most successful fund-raisers and amount raised.	7. Glen Miller- \$2,700; Winterfolk- \$1,500	---
ARTISTIC	ARTISTIC	
1. Do you consider yourself local, regional, provincial etc.	1. International *...music is international and local and can never be any other way.*	International
2. Do you pay musicians equal ... or barter?	2. Equal scale Many locals donate services.	Prize money
OTHER ACTIVITIES	OTHER ACTIVITIES	
	School Program; Concerts	Olde Tyme Dance; Fiddlers in Halls; Pancake breakfast; Banquet
PROBLEMS	PROBLEMS	
	money	none

FESTIVAL	REGINA FOLK FESTIVAL	MARIPOSA	SUMMER SOLSTICE	NORTHERN LIGHTS FEST. 1988	Manitoban Folk Festival
QUESTION 1					
1. Name of contact	Norm Walker	Rob Sinclair	Sandra Hackler	Scott Merrifield	Lloyd Greenspoon
2. Position	Artistic Director	Exec. Director	Brd. Mem., Art. Dir.	Co-ordinator	Artistic Director
3. Age of Fest./83	15 years	22 yrs.	5 yrs.	12 yrs.	4 yrs.
4. Attendance/82	1500-2000	8,000	3,500	5,000	1500
5. Pop. of City	Regina-160,000	Toronto-2 million	Thunder Bay-110,000	Sudbury- 100,000	Gore Bay- 800
6. /83 DATES	May 13, 14 & 15	tba	June 18 & 19	June 30, July 1, 2, 3	July 8, 9, 10
BOARD OF DIRECTORS					
1. How many?	6-10	12	Max. 15	10	6
2. Role or type	Working-responsible for gen. co-ordination of Fest. Monthly/open	Working Monthly/closed	Working, policy making, financially responsible Monthly +/-open	Working Monthly +/-open	n/a
3. Meetings?	50+	600 through year	400+ through year	110	26
VOLUNTEERS					
1. How many?	Fest. passes; party invites; self-satisfaction.	T-shirts, parties, newsletter, letter of thanks, Fest. pass, food and Mariposa Library borrowing privileges.	varies but /82 got a party. For 3 day Fest. they get fed and passes and a party.	Fest. pass, big party, stage announcements	food and drink
2. How are they thanked?					
STAFF					
1. # of paid?	none	3-6	1-5	none right now	none
2. Paid equally?	n/a	no	yes til /82, no now	no	n/a
3. Highest and lowest salary in 82/83?	n/a	min. wage to \$18,000/yr.	\$70/wk with Worker Adjustment Program, - \$180/wk	\$5/hr. - \$8/hr.	n/a
MEMBERS					
1. How does one become a member?	pay \$5.00	fee \$12/single \$18/family	Complicated new structure. See back of this newsletter for details.	fee of \$6/yr.	fee of \$10/yr.
2. Benefits?	newsletter, coffee house admission reduction.	20% off tickets & merchandise; newsletter; special members events; vote at AGM; advance notice of events; invite to open planning meetings; access to Fest Resource Centre.		10% discount; Newsletter, voting privileges.	vote
3. How many?	150-200	375	150-200	110	25
FINANCIAL					
1. \$\$ in red/black	red- \$2000 \$2000	not available \$27,000	\$6000 - red \$20,000	\$2000 black \$20,000	\$1000 - red \$1600
2. Greatest debt?					
3. Total yearly budget /82 & /83	/82-\$25,000 /83-\$30,000	/82-\$490,000 /83-\$325,000	/82-\$50,000 /83-\$138,000	/82-\$50,000 /83-\$100,000	/82-\$20,000 /83-\$20,000
4. Value of Assets.	none	\$12,000	?	none	\$10,000
5. Four largest sources of \$\$\$	grants, gate, ads	gate, grants and revenue from school records & concessions.	grants, fund-raisers; donations, Food Concessions.	gate, grants, donations, ads in program book	gates, dances, raffle
6. City contribution	up to \$2000	/82- \$6,250 and co-operation of Metro Parks Dept. piano raffle-\$6000 rummage sale-\$2000	/82- \$7,500 and a co-operative Parks and Rec Dept. Country Showdown-\$4000; Instrument Swap-\$2000; Beggar Blitz-\$5000	/82-\$1000 plus a few services. Beer Bash-\$3000 New Year's-\$1000	n/a
7. 3 most successful fund-raisers and amount raised.	n/a				n/a
ARTISTIC					
1. Do you consider yourself local, regional, provincial etc.	Performers mostly from West Canada but include those from other prov. & countries when possible.	International orientation but with strong Canadian trad. element is our hallmark tho' Fest. /82 was all Canadian.	50% regional, 50% national. This is a little flexible as we have had non-Canadian folk.	60% regional, 20% prov. etc. Start at home and work outward.	Provincial. "We'd be national if we could afford it."
2. Do you pay musicians equal ... or barter?	Performers divide the net profit equally except where specific grants are received.	Equal where possible	Equal where possible. May go scale	Have a scale	Equal.
OTHER ACTIVITIES	The Regina Guild of Folk Arts sponsors concerts, workshops coffee houses and The Festival.	School Program; Concert Series; "Mariposa Mainland" Concert Series; Mariposa in the Woods; Newsletter.	School Program; Newsletter; Concert Series; Coffeehouse; many fund-raisers and assorted extra concerts.	Club/Cabaret Series; Dormant Schools Program; Concerts; Craft Show; Dance.	Dances; Cabarets
PROBLEMS	money	deficit; developing broad community base	money for operating expenses	burn-out; operating costs; continuity	Money; New blood

