

# Canadian Folk Festival Directory

Much as we try to make this directory a complete listing of all festivals in Canada with significant folk music content, realistically that can't happen. Some festivals we don't hear about, some don't maintain contact with us, and some have address or personnel changes, and we lose touch. We get information from other agencies, such as provincial tourism boards, but this varies widely from province to province in terms of the kind and amount of information provided.

If you know of a festival that should be listed in this directory, and isn't, please send us any information you can, and help us get in touch with them. A mailing address would be particularly helpful (unfortunately we don't have a budget for numerous long distance phone calls or faxes). Help us spread the word!

## 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 9 to 13, 1998  
 SPRUCE MEADOWS MASTERS TOURNAMENT. Spruce Meadows, Calgary.  
 Curtis Reid, c/o Spruce Meadows, RR#9, Calgary, Alta. T2J 5G5  
 Bus.: (403) 974-4261; Fax: 974-4266; Email:  
 <smeadows@telusplante.net>;  
 Website: <www.sprucemeadows.com>

"This event is host to the Festival of Nations, with performers from 11 countries and hundreds of exhibits, activities and food services. In the Masters, the world's best compete in show jumping for over \$1,000,000 in prize money. Attendance: 145,000." Annual since 1976.

September 20, 1998  
 HARVEST OF THE PAST. Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, 25 mi. east of Edmonton  
 Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, c/o 8820 112th St., Edmonton, Alta. T6G 2P8  
 (403) 662-3640; Fax: 662-3273; Email <uchv@mdc.gov.ab.ca>

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

Tourism British Columbia, 1117 Wharf St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Z2; 1-800-663-6000  
 Tourism B.C. cautions us that all information is subject to change and should be confirmed.

September 4 to 6, 1996  
 CHILLIWACK BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL. Antique Powerland, Chilliwack  
 Annual since 1988.  
 (604) 792-2069; Fax: 792-2640

September 4 to 7, 1998  
 ALPINE FOLK DANCE FEST. Platzl, Kimberley  
 (250) 427-3666

September 20, 1998  
 WHONNOCK LAKE FOLK FESTIVAL. Whonnock Lake Centre, Maple Ridge  
 (604) 462-8421

October 24 and 25, 1998  
 BLUE GRASS FESTIVAL. Seniors Centre, Quesnel  
 (250) 992-3991

November 1998  
 REMEMBRANCE DAY POW-WOW. Lytton  
 (250) 455-2523

## MANITOBA

Travel Manitoba, 700-155 Carleton St., Winnipeg, Man. R3C 3H8; 1-800-665-0040, ex. AC6;  
 <http://www.gov.mb.ca/Travel-Manitoba>

September 17 to 26, 1998  
 OKTOBERFEST. Convention Centre, Winnipeg  
 Terry O'Reilly, 375 York Ave., Winnipeg, Man. R3C 3J3

Bus.: (204) 957-4516; Fax: 943-0310

"The largest indoor Canadian festival, featuring the finest in Bavarian delicacies, and domestic and imported beverages. Includes bands, dance troupes and nightly parades." Annual since 1978.

October 10 to 12, 1998  
 IRISH FEST '98. Irish Cultural Centre, Winnipeg  
 Susan and Paul Hammer, 686 Beresford Ave., Winnipeg, Man. R3L 1J8 (204) 474-0306; 489-6884 (Maureen Taggart);  
 Email: <pshammer@hotmail.com>

"A weekend of workshops, theatre, a local performers concert and a gala concert featuring our guest musicians. Private music lessons by the guest performers." Annual (one year missed) since 1987.

February 12 to 21, 1998  
 FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR. St-Boniface/Winnipeg  
 Normand Gousseau, 768, ave Taché, Winnipeg, Man. R2H 2C4  
 Res.: (204) 273-7692; Bus.: 237-7692; Fax: 233-7576;  
 Email: <voyageur@festivalvoyageur.mb.ca>  
 Website: <www.festivalvoyageur.mb.ca>

"Celebrates the voyageur and fur trade era; activities include more than 400 shows, international snow sculpture competition and exhibit, arts and crafts, fiddling and jigging contest, historic fort and interpretation, during Western Canada's largest winter festival." Annual since 1969.

## NEW BRUNSWICK

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

September 9 to 13, 1998  
 HARVEST JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL. Fredricton  
 1-888-622-5837

## NOVA SCOTIA

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

Nova Scotia has a wealth of concert series too numerous to list here. Also, the province provides only minimal information on festivals (date, name and location), so festivals whose name doesn't indicate that traditional music is part of their program may be left out. Don't take anything for granted—check locally when you're in Nova Scotia.

September 26, 1998  
 KIRK LOGAN FIDDLING CONTEST. Musquodoboit Valley

September 26 and 27, 1998  
 FEIS CHADAICH A TUATH GAELIC FESTIVAL. North Shore

October 9 to 17, 1998  
 CELTIC COLOURS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. 25 communities in Cape Breton  
 Celtic Colours International Festival, 363 Charlotte Street, Suite 1, Sydney, N.S. B1P 1E1  
 Max MacDonald and Joella Foulds (Festival Organizers), (902) 539-8800; Marg LeBlanc (Officer Manager) and Iain MacLeod (Information Officer), 562-6700; Terry Smith (Marketing), 539-0044; Email: <colours@chatsubo.com>;  
 Website: <www.celtic-colours.com>

"Cape Breton Island is home to an indigenous Celtic culture that continues to live and breathe 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 second annual Celtic Colours International Festival will bring 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. Celtic Colours '98 is a chance to find the air alive with the sights and sounds of a one-of-a-kind festival and see the beautiful highlands of Cape Breton dressed in full autumn colours. Building on the overwhelming success of last year's inaugural event, there will be 32 shows in 26 different communities, all celebrating our living culture with the rest of the world. Consider this your invitation to come ceilidh with us." Annual since 1997.

October 10, 1998  
 COUNTRY FIDDLE AND DANCE HOEDOWN. Starr's Point

October 10 and 11, 1998  
 FEIS MHABU. Mabou

October 23, 1998  
 CARIBOU CEILIDH. Caribou

## NUNAVUT

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

We know... Nunavut doesn't officially exist yet, but they have their own tourism organization, so we might as well anticipate the future.

As with the Northwest Territories, exact dates are rarely given for events. Don't plan to soak up Northern culture without calling the organizers and verifying the dates. Also, as with the N.W.T., we are assuming that cultural events in First Nations communities will include traditional music.

September 1998  
 HAMLET DAY. Arviat  
 (867) 857-2841  
 Includes square dances.

Mid-September, 1998  
 UQSHUQTUUQ MUSIC FESTIVAL. Gjoa Haven  
 Annual since 1997.  
 (867) 360-7141  
 "Join musicians from across the Kitikmeot as they perform in this second annual event."

## 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

September 4 and 5, 1998  
 PEMBROKE AND AREA OLD TIME FIDDLING AND STEP DANCING CONTEST. Memorial Centre, Pembroke  
 (613) 584-3962

September 4 to 7, 1998  
 HEINEKEN CELTIC CEILIDH. Harbourfront Centre, Toronto  
 1-800-437-2233

September 6 and 7, 1998  
 ITALIAN CELEBRATION. Canada's Wonderland, Maple  
 1-800-944-CHIN, (416) 531-9991, ext. 3900

September 10 to 13, 1998  
SIX NATIONS FALL FAIR AND POWWOW. Fairgrounds, Oshweken (519) 758-5444

September 12, 1998  
TRENTON SCOTTISH/IRISH FESTIVAL. Bayshore Park, Trenton (613) 392-3243

September 13, 1998  
EARLY MUSIC FAIR. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto (416) 966-1409

September 18 to 20, 1998  
CEILIDH FESTIVAL WEEKEND. Little Tub Harbour, Tobermory (519) 596-2452

September 20, 1998  
PRATIE OATEN. County of Grey-Owen Sound Museum, Owen Sound (519) 376-3690  
Potato harvest celebration includes Celtic music and dancing.

September 26 and 27, 1998  
CURVE LAKE POWWOW. Curve Lake (705) 657-8045

September 27 to October 18, 1998  
25th ANNIVERSARY OF SKA-NAH-DOHT. Ska-Nah-Doht Iroquoian Village, Longwoods Road Conservation Area, Mt. Brydges (519) 264-2420  
Iroquoian harvest celebration includes Native music.

October 2 to 4, 1998  
VIETNAMESE FESTIVAL. Harbourfront Centre, Toronto (416) 973-3000

October 3, 1998  
PIONEER DAY. Jordan (905) 562-5242  
Celebration of Meanonite/Pennsylvania heritage includes music.

October 9 to 17, 1998  
KITCHENER-WATERLOO OKTOBERFEST. Kitchener (519) 570-4267; Website: <www.oktoberfest.ca>

October 10, 1998  
STORYTELLING FESTIVAL. St. Edward's School, Westport (613) 273-3359

October 10 to 12, 1998  
THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS. Archibald Orchards and Estate Winery, Bowmanville (905) 263-2396  
Includes Native singing, dancing and storytelling.

October 17, 1998  
ROYAL CITY SQUARE HARVEST HOE-DOWN. John F. Ross High School, Guelph (519) 821-1875

October 18, 1998  
FESTIVAL OF CANADIAN ARAB CULTURE. Harbourfront Centre, Toronto (416) 973-3000

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

*Department of Economic Development and Tourism, 4th Floor, Shaw Building, Box 2000, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7N8*  
*P.E.I. boasts many concert series and ceilidhs; consult the above address for information.*

September 1 to 19, 1998  
CELTIC FESTIVAL. Summerside (902) 436-5377

\*Celtic performers from the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada celebrate the culture and heritage of their Scottish and Irish ancestors by converging regularly throughout the summer for competitions, concerts and ceilidhs. The festival is kicked off with the Summerside Highland Gathering the last week in June, and is followed with a Highland summer concert series, a daily historical attraction with demonstrations, and many special concerts. Performers include a tremendous lineup of Island pipers, drummers, Highland dancers, step dancers, fiddlers and Celtic singers.\*

September 4 to 6, 1998 EXPOSITION AGRICOLE ET FESTIVAL ACADIEN DE LA RÉGION ÉVANGÉLINE. Abram Village Marcel Bernard (902) 854-2189  
\*Acadian Soirée, entertainment, contests, parade, lobster suppers, mass on fishing boats, handicraft and livestock judging, equestrian events, etc.\*

September 19, 1998  
COME TO THE CEILIDH. Confederation Centre of the Arts, Charlottetown (902) 566-1267 (box office); 436-5377 (College of Piping)  
\*A cast of more than 60 pipers, drummers, Highland dancers, step dancers, fiddlers and singers. The finest in Island Celtic entertainment.\*

## 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*

August 30 to September 1998  
FESTIVAL DE MUSIQUE ANCIENNE DE SILLERY. Domaine Catarauqi, Québec  
Fondation Bagatelle, 2141, ch. St-Louis, Sillery, P.Q. G1T 1P9 (418) 681-3010; Fax: 681-3865  
\*Concerts avec artistes, troubadours et ménestrels. Musiques médiévales, renaissances et baroques.\* Annual since 1989.

September 4 to 7, 1998  
CARREFOUR MONDIAL DE L'ACCORDÉON. Various venues, Montmagny  
301 boul. Taché Est, C.P. 71, Montmagny, P.Q. G5V 3S3 (418) 248-7927; Fax: 248-7927; Website: <www.globetrotter.qc.ca/accordéon>  
\*10e édition de cet événement regroupant une soixantaine d'artistes des quatre coins du monde. Vous pourrez y entendre de la musique semi-classique, du traditionnel ainsi que de la musique populaire interprétée par de grands virtuoses de l'accordéon.\* Annual since 1989.

## 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 4 to 7, 1998  
BEAUTIFUL VALLEY JAMBOREE. Beauval (306)-288-2222  
Outdoor music festival featuring Metis and Native artists, including jiggling contest.

September 4 to 6, 1998  
MÉTIS FALL FESTIVAL. Prince Albert (306)-763-6339  
Includes jiggling, fiddling and square dancing.

September 14 to 20, 1998  
TREATY FOUR GATHERING. Fort Qu'Appelle (306)-322-1874  
Includes Native dance and powwow.

September 18 to 20, 1998  
COWBOY POETRY GATHERING AND WESTERN ART SHOW. Maple Creek (306)-558-4415  
Includes "three days of pickin', singin' and recitin'." Annual since 1990.

September 25 to 27, 1998  
SASKATOON POLKA FEST. Saskatoon (306)-652-9111

September 26 and 27, 1998  
TAPESTRAMA. Prince Albert (306)-922-0405  
Display of cultures includes music and dance.

October 2 and 3, 1998  
WESTERN CANADA AMATEUR OLDE TYME FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIP. Swift Current (306)-773-8924

October 3, 1998  
POLKA PARTY. Kerrobert (306)-463-3195  
Annual since 1994.

October 18 to 24, 1998  
HUMBOLDT OKTOBERFEST WEEK. Humboldt (306)-682-3444  
Annual since 1996.

October 25, 1998  
GOSPEL JAMBOREE. Melfort (306)-752-3058

November 14 and 15, 1998  
TRADITIONAL VETERANS' POWWOW. White Bear First Nations 1-888-577-4943; <tourism@istar.ca>; <www.aboriginalnet.com/tourism/whitebear>  
Includes honour specials and traditional style singing contest.

February 12 to 28, 1999  
PRINCE ALBERT WINTER FESTIVAL. Prince Albert (306)-764-7595  
Includes fiddle championship.

February 18 to 20, 1998  
MID-WINTER BLUES FESTIVAL. Regina (306)-52BLUES  
Annual since 1996.

February 21, 1998  
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FUR TRADING POST. Craven (306)-787-2700  
Includes traditional Native activities.

February 26 to 28, 1998  
DENARE BEACH WINTER FESTIVAL. Denare Beach (306)-362-2170  
Includes Native events.

## CAMPS AND COURSES

October 2 to 4, 1998  
MUSIC AT MEADOWLAWN. Bowen Island, B.C. Lois Meyers-Carter, Box K-13, Bowen Island, B.C. V0N 1G0 Res.: (604) 947-2440; Fax: 947-2449  
Email: <cartmeyer@netcom.ca>  
\*Music at Meadowlawn' is a weekend fiddle retreat—a weekend of warm Hospitality, good food, lively music and great instruction from a master fiddler noted for mastery of a particular genre. Registration is limited to 24. Tuition includes billeting and all meals. Fees: \$135Cdn, \$120US; early bird rates available. Billeting available for 16: B&B fees \$65 to \$120Cdn.\* Twice yearly since 1995.