

Canadian Folk Festival Directory

This directory is updated on an ongoing basis on our website, www.yorku.ca/cstm; information which arrives after the cutoff for this issue may be available at that location. We try to cover a six-month period in each issue.

We try to include all festivals having significant traditional music content, even those which don't call themselves "folk festivals". Some examples would be cowboy poetry gatherings, storytelling festivals, First Peoples pow-wows, fiddle and dance competitions, Highland gatherings, and so forth. For the purposes of this directory, the term "folk music" is interpreted broadly, so borderline events fall on the side of inclusion.

Our aim is to produce a listing of all festivals in Canada meeting our criteria, 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. (For instance, you may have deduced that there's a very comprehensive listing of Scottish cultural events available to us.) Please let us know about festivals which should be included and aren't.

We also try to make a distinction between "festivals" as such and ongoing concert series which use the word to describe themselves; we don't include the latter. However, making a value judgment, sometimes from thousands of kilometres away, sometimes based on sketchy information, sometimes will lead to errors. Again, please set us straight if you know of true festivals which we've left out or non-festivals which we've included.

Blurbs in quotes are provided to us by the festivals themselves; they may be edited by us, but they constitute the festivals' own view of themselves. [JL]

Camps and Courses

February 13 to 16, 2003
Yee-Haw at He-Ho-Ha. Camp He-Ha-Ho, Wabamun, Alberta
Blaine Lutwick, (403) 748-4153

February 21 to 23, 2004
Orangeville Fiddle and Step Dance Camp.
Orangeville, Ontario
Bill Elliott, 325 Broadway, Orangeville, ON L9W 1L4; (519) 941-5683 (res.);
<belliott@easyfocus.com>; <<http://www.fiddle.on.ca>>

"Instruction in traditional old time Canadian fiddle music. In the summer there is also instruction in the 'Ottawa Valley' style of Step Dance. Two weekend winter workshops, one in October and one in February, and a full week in July." Since 1994.

March 26 to 28, 2004
Danse-neige. Camp Notre-Dame, St-Ligouri, Quebec
Société pour la promotion de la danse traditionnelle québécoise, 911 rue Jean-Talon est, bureau 010, Montréal, QC H2R 1V5; (514) 273-0880; 273-9727 (fax); <info@spdtq.qc.ca>; <www.spdtq.qc.ca>

June 11 to 13, 2004
Memramcook Bluegrass Campout. Memramcook area, New Brunswick
Francis Cormier, 39 Sifroid St., Memramcook, NB E4K 1S2; (506) 758-9663; 758-8991 (fax); <francisc@nbnnet.nb.ca>; <www.bluegrassdiamonds.com>
"Follow signs from exit 480, Trans Canada Highway, or take shuttle service. Showtimes: Friday 6:00-10:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m." Since 1990.

June 27 to July 14, 2004
SCES Emma Lake Fiddle Camp. University of Saskatchewan Kenderdine Campus, Emma Lake, Saskatchewan
Tiffany Giesbrecht (Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society Programs Officer), 2431 8th Ave., Regina, SK S4R 5J7; (306) 780-9494 (bus.); 780-9487 (fax); <tiffanyg@sasktel.net>; <www.sces.ca>
"Emma Lake is for fiddlers and accompanists of all skill levels. The main thrust of the classes is training by ear. Each instructor works with a small group of students. Each day features additional workshops so that every student has the opportunity to work with all of our instructors. Evenings feature concerts by instructors, dances and jam sessions. Each week ends with a 'community concert' on the final night, where students and instructors play. The camp annually hosts up to 200 students of all skill levels in the heart of Saskatchewan's beautiful northland. From Scottish to Métis to Old Time and more, a wide variety of styles are offered by the expert staff. Students of all ages are welcome to stay at the rustic campus or camp at a nearby provincial campsite." Since 1987.

Festivals

ALBERTA

Travel Alberta, P.O. Box 2500, Edmonton, AB T5J 2Z4; 1-800-661-8888 (North America); (780) 427-4321 (outside North America); (780) 427-0867 (fax);

<visit@travelalberta.com>
<http://www.discoveralberta.com/EventsEntertainment/index.html>

May 8, 2004

Festival in the Rockies. Cochrane High School Lyceum, Cochrane
Ceilidh Revue, 6 Benchlands Dr., Cochrane, AB T0L 0W1
Since 1997.

May 25 to 29, 2004

Calgary International Children's Festival. In and around EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts and Olympic Plaza, Calgary
David Anderson (General Manager), 205 8th Ave. SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0K9; (403) 294-7414 (bus.); 294-7425 (fax); <mktmgr@calgarychildfest.org>; <www.calgarychildfest.org>

"Now into its eighteenth year, the Calgary International Children's Festival has become a significant, well-loved annual community event in southern Alberta. It has been recognized not only by local agencies but also internationally as a premier venue for family-oriented live entertainment. The Festival is a unique blend of fun and educational theatrical, musical and dance experiences." Since 1987.

June 1 to 5, 2004

Northern Alberta International Children's Festival. St. Albert
5 St. Anne St., St. Albert, AB T8N 3Z9; (780) 459-1542; 459-1726 (fax); <www.childfest.com>

June 13, 2004

Grande Prairie Highland Games. Macklin Field, Grande Prairie
Box 22141, Grande Prairie, Alta. T8V 6X1; (403) 532-4250;
Since 1983.

June 18 to 20, 2004

North Country Fair. Joussard
Bag 1, Joussard, AB T0G 1J0; (780) 988-3258;
<info@northcountryfair.ab.ca>; <www.northcountryfair.ab.ca>

June 19, 2004

Highland Gathering in the Park. Sherwood Park
Cameron Prowse, 9 Heritage Lake Way, Sherwood Park, AB T8A 6A7; <cprowse@prowsechowne.com>;
Since 2001.

June 25 and 26, 2004

Red Deer Highland Games. Westerner Altaplex, Red Deer.
Joyce Munawych, 37 Asmundsen Dr., Red Deer, Alta. T4R 1G1; (403) 343-6418;
<highlandgames@home.com>; <reddeerhighlandgames.ca>
Since 1947.

June 26, 2004

Water Valley Traditional Celtic Folk Festival.

Various venues in Water Valley. David W. Settles, c/o Fairview Studios, 7060C Farrell Rd. SE, Calgary, AB T2H 0T2; (403) 640-1377 (res.); 255-7882 (bus.); <dsettles@shaw.ca>

<www.watervalleycelticfestival.com>

"The Water Valley Traditional Celtic Music Festival is a one-day local festival. There are nine venues, all indoors or weather-protected. There will be over 75 performances by up to 150 musicians, singers and dancers." Since 1999.

June 27, 2004

Edmonton Scottish Society Highland Gathering.

Grant McEwan Park, Edmonton
Stewart Russell, 35 Blackstone Cres., Devon, Alta. T9G 1N1; <russell.s@shaw.ca>
Since 1972.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Tourism British Columbia, 1117 Wharf St., Victoria, BC V8W 2Z2; 1-800-663-6000;
<www.hellobc.com/bcescapes/events/eventsindex.jsp>

January 25, 2004

Chinese New Year Celebration. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, Vancouver
578 Carrall St., Vancouver, BC V6B 5K2; <(604) 662-3207; 682-4008 (fax); <sunyatsen@telus.net>; <www.vancouverchinesegarden.com/events>

May 15, 2004

Comox Valley Highland Games. Lewis Park, Courtenay
Box 1285, Comox, BC V9N 7Z8; (250) 338-0363; 334-9747 (fax); <arcgives@island.net>
Since 1996.

May 16, 2004

Victoria Highland Games. Bullen Park, Esquimalt
Victoria Highland Games Assn., 2665 Foul Bay Rd., Victoria, BC V8R 5B5; (250) 598-8961 (bus.); 598-1531 (res.); <lettermore@canseek.com>; <www.victoriahighlandgames.com>
Since 1936.

May 17 to 24, 2004

Vancouver International Children's Festival.

Vancouver
#402, 873 Beatty St., Vancouver, BC V6B 2M6; (604) 708-5655; 708-5661 (fax); <info@childrensfestival.ca>; <www.childrensfestival.ca>

May 22, 2004

Gathering of the Clans. Massey Place Stadium, Prince George
272 Forfar Pl., Prince George, BC B2M 6P9; (250) 564-0910; <mezcalmike@telus.net>; <www.pgonline.com/clans> Since 1995.

June 12, 2004

Sons of Scotland Games. Abbotsford
(604) 435-0764; <www.eteamz.com/sonsofscotland>

June 18 and 19, 2004

Cariboo Highland Games. Labourdais Park, Quesnel
Michael Pelchat, 1316 Lakeview Dr., Quesnel, BC
V2J 4Z4; (250) 992-9020 (fax);
<kpelchat@uniserve.com>; <www.carihigh.com>

June 19, 2004

BC Legion Highland Gathering. Farmers' Institute,
Ganges
Peter McCully, 124 Park Dr., Salt Spring Island, BC
V8K 2R7; (250) 538-0052 (bus. & fax);
<mccully@uniserve.com>;
<www.highlandgathering.ca> Since 1950.

June 26, 2004

B.C. Highland Games & Festival. Town Centre
Stadium, Coquitlam
Mike Paul, 305 - 4001 Mt. Seymour Pkwy., North
Vancouver, BC V7G 1C2; (604) 929-1802 (res.); 984-
9110 (bus.); 929-7906 (fax); <pellon29@aol.com>;
<www.bchighlandgames.com>
"Highland dancing -- Piping -- Heavy athletic events --
- Stage show -- Heritage and concession tents --
Children's entertainment -- Food and refreshment tents
-- Celtic music. Gates open at 8:30 a.m., close at 7:30
p.m. Under 12 free." Since 1930.

MANITOBA

Travel Manitoba, 700-155 Carleton St., Winnipeg,
MB R3C 3H8; 1-800-665-0040, ext. AC6;
<www.travelmanitoba.com/fairsfest>

February 20 to 22, 2004

Winnipeg Scottish Festival. Convention Centre,
Winnipeg
Elaine Douglas (Coordinator), 577 McMeans Ave. W,
Winnipeg, MB R2C 0X8; (204) 224-0032 (fax);
<edouglas@city.winnipeg.mb.ca> Since 1994.

June 8, 2004

Ukrainian Music Jamboree. Red River Exhibition
Centre, Winnipeg
Red River Exhibition Offices, 876 James St.,
Winnipeg, MB R3G 3J7; (204) 888-9380;
<ronn.ens@redriverex.com>
Since 1984.

June 25 and 26, 2004

Scottish Heritage Festival. Red River Exhibition
Centre, Winnipeg
Red River Exhibition Offices, 876 James St.,
Winnipeg, MB R3G 3J7; (204) 888-9380;
<ronn.ens@redriverex.com>
Since 1984.

July 3, 2004

Manitoba Highland Gathering. Selkirk Park, Selkirk

Selkirk Highland Gathering Inc., Box 59, Selkirk, MB
R1A 2B1; (204) 886-2253; <ccox@autobahn.mb.ca>;
<mbhg.tripod.com>

NEW BRUNSWICK

Tourism New Brunswick, Dept. 339, P.O. Box 12345,
Fredriktion, N.B. E3B 5C3;
<nbtourism@gov.nb.ca>;
<www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca>

May 22, 2004

Gathering of the Scots Festival. Baird's
Campgrounds, Perth-Andover
Carrie Myers, 51 Brunswick Ave., Ft. Fairfield, ME
04742, USA; (506) 273-6710; (207) 764-3390 (fax);
<scribe@maine.rr.com> Since 2002.

June 23, 2004

Founders' Day. New Denmark
Ronald Hansen, 6 Main Rd., New Denmark, NB E7G
2B7; (506) 553-9923 Includes folk dancing.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Dept. of Tourism, Recreation and Parks, Mundy Pond
Rd., Box 908, St. John's, NF A1C 5M2;
<www.gov.nf.ca/tourism/mainmenu/whattodo/events>

All events are said to include traditional music and/or
dance (even if the name doesn't sound like it).

NOVA SCOTIA

Tourism Nova Scotia, P.O. Box 130, Halifax, NS B3J
2M7; 1-800-565-0000;
<<http://explore.gov.ns.ca/whattodo/festivalsandevents>>

June 18 to 20, 2004

Nova Scotia Multicultural Festival. Alderney
Landing, Dartmouth
Barbara Campbell (Executive Director), 1113
Marginal Road, Halifax, NS B3H 4P7; (902) 423-
6534 (bus.); 422-0881 (fax); <admin@mans.ns.ca>;
<www.mans.ns.ca>
"The festival offers ethnic food from around the globe,
pulsating world music performances, cultural displays,
arts and crafts in the Tent For Tots and the opportunity
to learn about Nova Scotia's many diverse ethno-
cultural communities. Special features this year
include guest performances from Italy, Armenia and
other nations, Focus on Youth Day (Friday, June
20th), a day devoted to youth and multiculturalism, a
Parade of Nations and a Showcase of Traditional
Costume." Since 1984.

NUNAVUT

Nunavut Tourism, P.O. Box 1450, Iqaluit, NV X0C
0H0

1-866-686-2888; <info@nunavutturism.com>;
<www.nunavuttourism.com>

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.

ONTARIO

Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Recreation, 77 Bloor St. W, Toronto, ON M7A 2R9;
<www.canadatourism.ca/Ontario_Events.asp>

Ontario Council of Folk Festivals, P.O. Box 882, Peterborough, ON K9J 7A2; <info@ocff.ca>;
<www.ocff.ca/festivals.htm>

April 2 to 4, 2004

Spring Thaw Dance Weekend. Eastminster United Church, Toronto
(416) 532-2025; <info@tcdance.org>

April 3 and 4, 2003

Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival. Main Street, Sunderland
Vicki Bruc, <chairperson@maplesyrupfestival.ca>;
<www.maplesyrupfestival.ca>
Includes old time music, clogging. Since 1996.

May 22 and 23, 2004

Celtfest Callander. Legion Branch 445, Callander North Bay Highland Dance Assn., 10 Durrell Rd., RR#2, Corbeil, ON P0H 1K0; (705) 752-5171;
<windsor@thot.net>
Since 2001.

June 4 to 6, 2004

Brockville Celtic Festival. St. Lawrence Park & Hardy Park, Brockville
P.O. Box 70, Brockville, ON K6V 5T7; (613) 341-8884; <info@brockvillecelticfestival.com>;
<www.brockvillecelticfestival.com>
Since 2001.

June 12, 2004

Georgetown Highland Games. Fairgrounds, Georgetown
Jin Christie, 21 Church St., Georgetown, ON L7G 2A4; (519) 853-4958; <www.stn.net/highland>
Since 1961.

June 18 to 20, 2004

Noongam Traditional Powwow. Queen Juliana Park, Ottawa
(613) 786-1552; <noongampowwow@yahoo.com>;
<www.noongam.50megs.com> Since 1998.

June 18 to 20, 2004

Windsor Celtic Festival. Civic Terrace, Windsor
Pat Warren, c/o Capitol Theatre & Arts Centre, 121 University W, Windsor, ON N9A 5P4; (519) 253-

8065; <capitol@mnsi.net>;
<www.capitol.on.ca/celticfest> Since 1998.

June 19, 2004

North Bay Highland Gathering. Memorial Gardens, North Bay
(705) 474-9834 Since 1961.

June 19 and 20, 2004

Loch Sloy Highland Games & Friendship Festival. Old Fort Erie, Fort Erie
Bill Knox, (905) 871-7152;
<lochslroy@vaxxine.com>;
<www.geocities.com/lochslroygames>

June 25 and 26, 2004

Dundalk Step Dance, Square Dance & Clogging Festival. Dundalk
Linda Caswell (519) 924-2132;
<lcaswell@bmts.com>

June 25 to 27, 2004

Tottenham Bluegrass Festival. Amphitheatre, Tottenham Conservation Area
P.O. Box 922, Tottenham, ON L0G 1W0; 1-888-BLUGRAS; (905) 936-4100; (416) 755-9521;
<cofac@idirect.com>; <www.tottenhambluegrass.ca>
Since 1985.

June 26, 2004

Cobourg Highland Games. Donegan Park, Cobourg
Bob Cassells, P.O. Box 424, Cobourg, ON K9A 4L1; (905) 372-6988; 372-2411 (fax);
<info@highlandgames.nu>;
<www.highlandgames.nu> Since 1964.

QUEBEC

Tourism Québec, 1010, rue Ste-Catherine Ouest, bureau 430, Montréal, QC H3B 1G2;
<www.tourisme.gouv.qc.ca>
Conseil québécois du patrimoine vivant, c.p. 1442, Québec, QC G1K 7G7;
<www.cqp.v.qc.ca/inventaire%20patrimoine.doc>

Thirty Below -- Trente Sous Zéro, 1108, rue Dollard, Val-Bélair, QC G3K 1W6; (418) 847-9815;
<thirtybe@qbc.clic.net>;
<www.qbc.clic.net/~thirtybe>

February 12 to 22, 2004

Carnaval-Souvenir de Chicoutimi. Chicoutimi
1-877-543-4439 (toll-free Can., U.S.); (418) 543-4438; 543-4884 (fax); <carnaval-chic@qc.ara.com>;
<www.reseauqc.ca/carnaval>
Includes folk dance.

March 1 to 7, 2004

Festivalissimo. Montreal
(514) 935-0129; 935-3198 (fax);
<info@festivalissimo.net>; <www.festivalissimo.net>
Portugese cultural festival.

April 6 to 11, 2004

Festival de conte De Bouche à Oreille. Montréal et environs. André Lemelin, 5644 Bordeaux, Montréal, QC H2G 2G3; (514) 276-1278 (res.); <info@festivaldeconte.com>; <www.festivaldeconte.com>

"Le Festival de conte De Bouche à Oreille est une manifestation annuelle et nationale destinée aux conteurs québécois et francophones nord-américains, conteurs établis, reconnus et de la relève. Le festival propose des spectacles sous la forme de soirées et de veillées de contes." Depuis 2003.

May 27 to 30, 2004

La Grande rencontre, Festival de danse et de musique traditionnelle québécoise. Montreal Société pour la promotion de la danse traditionnelle québécoise, 911 rue Jean-Talon est, bureau 010, Montréal, QC H2R 1V5; (514) 273-0880; 273-9727 (fax); <info@spdtq.qc.ca>

June 9 to 21, 2004

Montreal First Peoples Festival. Montreal (514) 278-4040; 278-4224 (fax); <tev@nativelynx.qc.ca>; <www.nativelynx.qc.ca>

June 25 to July 4, 2004

Québec scène des enfants du monde. Beauport (418) 821-7048; 821-7059 (fax); <ffem2@oricom.ca>

SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society, 2431 8th Ave., Regina, SK S4R 5J7; (306) 780-9494; <sces@sasktel.net>; <www.sces.ca>

Tourism Saskatchewan, 1922 Park St., Regina, SK S4P 3V7; 1-877-237-2273; <travel.info@sasktourism.com>; <www.sasktourism.com>

February 6 to 8, 2004

Mid-Winter Celtic Festival. Various venues in Regina. Iain MacDonald, Box 132, Avonlea, SK S0H 0C0; (306) 868-2125; 868-2126 (fax); <iainmacd@sasktel.net>; <www.gpfn.sk.ca/culture/arts/celtic>

"A weekend of music, dance, song, story and fun hosted by the City of Regina Pipe Band. There are workshops for various instrumental and dance forms, a pub night with live entertainment on Friday, and a ceilidh on Saturday night." Since 1990.

April 23 and 24, 2004

Battlefords Polkafest. Knights of Columbus Centre, North Battleford 1202 105th St., North Battleford, SK S9A 1S5; (306) 445-4334 (bus. & fax)

May 7 and 8, 2004

Vesna Festival. Centennial Auditorium, Saskatoon Box 1592, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3R3; (306) 934-7076

May 15, 2004

Regina Highland Games. RCMP Sports Grounds, Regina Regina Highland Festival Assn., P.O. Box 3205, Regina, SK S4P 3H1; (306) 789-7142; <iainmacd@sk.sympatico.ca>; <www.gpfn.sk.ca/culture/arts/highland/index> Since 1976.

May 22, 2004

Moose Jaw Highland Games. Crescent Park, Moose Jaw. Jane Cleniuk, (306) 565-2938; 565-8928 (fax)

June 5 and 6, 2004

Mosaic Tartan Festival. Regina Bonnie Widdis, (306) 249-1836

YUKON TERRITORY

Yukon Tourism, Box 2703, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6; <www.yukonweb.com/special>

February 13 to 15, 2004

Frostbite Music Festival. Yukon Arts Centre/Yukon College, Whitehorse Brenda Barnes (Producer), Box 31283, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5P7; (867) 393-3018; <frostbite@polarcom.com>; <www.frostbite.ca> Since 1979.

Mid-April 2004

International Mini Folk Festival. Whitehorse and Skagway, Alaska Barb Kalen, P.O. Box 317, Skagway, AK 99840, USA; (907) 983-2276

June 25 to 27, 2004

Yukon Gathering of the Clans & Celtic Festival. Rotary Peace Park, Whitehorse Yukon Scottish Club, Box 31287, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5P7; (867) 667-6133; 667-4812 (fax); <jwilson@yknet.yk.ca>; <www.klondike.com/highland/clans/2000> Since 1996

Photograph on back cover

John Leeder at the CSTM Evening Concert in Athabasca, on November 1st, 2003. Sitting behind him, from left to right, are Norman Stanfield, James Prescott, Rosaleen Gregory, Mike Ballantyne, Derek Lofthouse, and Rika Ruebsaat. Photograph courtesy of Gerry T. Bulmer.