



For Immediate Release
February 26, 2008

Media Release

Top 100 Ontario Festivals Celebrated

The "Top 100 Ontario Festivals" for April 2008 - March 2009 were unveiled recently at Festivals & Events Ontario's annual conference during the prestigious President's Gala in London, ON (*refer to following list*). A program created by Festivals & Events Ontario (FEO) and sponsored by VIA Rail Canada, the Top 100 Ontario Festivals represent excellence for the province's festivals and events industry, with events vying annually for inclusion in the "Top 100". The festivals were selected through a nomination process that included a pre-determined set of criteria.

There are over three thousand annual festivals and community events staged each year in Ontario, ranging from one-day street fairs to internationally renowned, multi-day celebrations. FEO takes great pride in honouring these top-notch festivals and events currently enjoyed each year by our visitors and residents alike. The Top 100 Ontario Festivals are represented in the 2008 Festivals & Events in Ontario Guide. FEO, in partnership with the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation, produces the guide, which has a distribution of 250,000 and a readership of 750,000. The publication will be available for distribution in mid-March.

The 2008 FEO Conference was held from February 20 – 23, 2008 at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn in London, Ontario. The theme of the conference was 'Fiesta Del FEO' and attracted approximately 250 community festival and event organizers from across the province and featured four days of dynamic presentations, in-depth workshops and an outstanding opportunity to learn from and network with top festival and event industry professionals. There was also a showcase of the latest services, products and entertainment options available to produce the best festivals and special events.

Festivals & Events Ontario is the professional association for the festivals and events industry in Ontario providing a network for festival and special event organizers to share information and resources. The association is involved with collaborative advocacy, policy development, marketing and providing educational opportunities for members. The association also serves industry members who provide goods and services to the festivals and special events industry.

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Top 100 Ontario Festivals Celebrated For April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009

| Festival Name | Location | Start Date | End Date |
|--|--------------------|------------|-----------|
| Collingwood Music Festival | Collingwood | 19-Apr-08 | 9-Aug-08 |
| Doors Open Ontario | Across Ontario | 26-Apr-08 | 19-Oct-08 |
| Canadian Tulip Festival | Ottawa | 2-May-08 | 19-May-08 |
| Terroir Wine Celebration | Picton | 17-May-08 | 19-May-08 |
| Lilac Celebration | Burlington | 17-May-08 | 25-May-08 |
| Carassauga Festival | Mississauga | 23-May-08 | 25-May-08 |
| Thunder Bay Kite Festival | Thunder Bay | 25-May-08 | 25-May-08 |
| Gregor's Crossing Medieval Faire | Chatham | 29-May-08 | 1-Jun-08 |
| Illuminaqua | Welland | 30-May-08 | 22-Aug-08 |
| Welland Rose Festival | Welland | 1-Jun-08 | 30-Jun-08 |
| Dundas Buskerfest | Dundas | 6-Jun-08 | 8-Jun-08 |
| Burlington's Sound of Music Festival | Burlington | 12-Jun-08 | 15-Jun-08 |
| Mississauga Waterfront Festival | Mississauga | 13-Jun-08 | 15-Jun-08 |
| Carrousel Festival | Windsor | 13-Jun-08 | 29-Jun-08 |
| Canadian International Military Tattoo | Hamilton | 14-Jun-08 | 15-Jun-08 |
| Oshawa Fiesta Week | Oshawa | 15-Jun-08 | 21-Jun-08 |
| White Pine Cultural Festival | Blind River | 20-Jun-08 | 26-Jul-08 |
| 4th Annual Italia In Festa | Thorold | 20-Jun-08 | 21-Jun-08 |
| Oakville Waterfront Festival | Oakville | 20-Jun-08 | 22-Jun-08 |
| TD Canada Trust Ottawa International Jazz Festival | Ottawa | 20-Jun-08 | 1-Jul-08 |
| Toronto Pride Week 2008 | Toronto | 20-Jun-08 | 29-Jun-08 |
| TD Canada Trust Toronto Jazz Festival | Toronto | 20-Jun-08 | 29-Jun-08 |
| Bikers Reunion | Temiskaming Shores | 26-Jun-08 | 30-Jun-08 |
| Friendship Festival | Fort Erie | 27-Jun-08 | 6-Jul-08 |
| It's Your Festival | Hamilton | 27-Jun-08 | 1-Jul-08 |
| Canada Dry Festival of Fire | Toronto | 28-Jun-08 | 5-Jul-08 |
| Canada Day Celebration (Ottawa) | Ottawa | 1-Jul-08 | 1-Jul-08 |
| Canada Day Celebrations (Oshawa) | Oshawa | 1-Jul-08 | 1-Jul-08 |
| Caribana Festival & Parade | Toronto | 2-Jul-08 | 2-Aug-08 |
| World Famous Sunset Ceremonies | Kingston | 2-Jul-08 | 27-Aug-08 |
| Fringe of Toronto Theatre Festival | Toronto | 2-Jul-08 | 13-Jul-08 |
| Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest | Ottawa | 3-Jul-08 | 13-Jul-08 |
| Sunfest '08: A Celebration of World Cultures | London | 3-Jul-08 | 6-Jul-08 |
| Northern Lights Festival Boreal | Sudbury | 4-Jul-08 | 6-Jul-08 |

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| Porquis Blues Festival | Porquis | 4-Jul-08 | 6-Jul-08 |
| Sarnia Rogers Bayfest | Sarnia | 9-Jul-08 | 13-Jul-08 |
| Essex Fun Fest | Essex | 10-Jul-08 | 13-Jul-08 |
| Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition | Toronto | 11-Jul-08 | 13-Jul-08 |
| Art of Being Green | Lanark | 12-Jul-08 | 13-Jul-08 |
| Beaches International Jazz Festival | Toronto | 18-Jul-08 | 27-Jul-08 |
| French Dressing Int'l Dragon Boats Festival | Windsor | 18-Jul-08 | 20-Jul-08 |
| Mount Forest 8th Annual Fireworks Festival | Mount Forest | 18-Jul-08 | 20-Jul-08 |
| Rogers Cup 2008 | Toronto | 19-Jul-08 | 27-Jul-08 |
| Collingwood Elvis Festival | Collingwood | 24-Jul-08 | 27-Jul-08 |
| Fergus Truck Show | Fergus | 24-Jul-08 | 27-Jul-08 |
| Mattawa Voyageur Days | Mattawa | 24-Jul-08 | 27-Jul-08 |
| Hillside Festival | Guelph | 25-Jul-08 | 27-Jul-08 |
| Kapuskasing Lumberjack Heritage Festival | Kapuskasing | 25-Jul-08 | 27-Jul-08 |
| Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival | Ottawa | 26-Jul-08 | 9-Aug-08 |
| Rogers Chinese Lantern Festival | Toronto | 30-Jul-08 | 12-Oct-08 |
| Rockhound Gemboree | Bancroft | 31-Jul-08 | 3-Aug-08 |
| Barrie Kempenfest Inc. | Barrie | 1-Aug-08 | 4-Aug-08 |
| Glengarry Highland Games | Maxville | 1-Aug-08 | 2-Aug-08 |
| Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival | Port Colborne | 1-Aug-08 | 4-Aug-08 |
| Simcoe Rotary Friendship Festival | Simcoe | 2-Aug-08 | 4-Aug-08 |
| Kitchener Blues Festival | Kitchener | 7-Aug-08 | 10-Aug-08 |
| Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games | Fergus | 8-Aug-08 | 10-Aug-08 |
| Taste of the Danforth | Toronto | 8-Aug-08 | 10-Aug-08 |
| Kingston Sheep Dog Trials | Kingston | 8-Aug-08 | 10-Aug-08 |
| Canadian Redneck Games | Minto | 8-Aug-08 | 10-Aug-08 |
| MuslimFest | Mississauga | 9-Aug-08 | 9-Aug-08 |
| Buckhorn Fine Art Festival | Buckhorn | 14-Aug-08 | 17-Aug-08 |
| SuperEx | Ottawa | 14-Aug-08 | 24-Aug-08 |
| Canadian National Exhibition | Toronto | 15-Aug-08 | 1-Sep-08 |
| Winnie's Hometown Festival | White River | 15-Aug-08 | 17-Aug-08 |
| Anishnawbe Keeshigun | Thunder Bay | 16-Aug-08 | 17-Aug-08 |
| Barrie Fair | Barrie | 20-Aug-08 | 24-Aug-08 |
| Scotiabank Buskerfest | Toronto | 21-Aug-08 | 24-Aug-08 |
| Tecumseh Corn Festival | Tecumseh | 21-Aug-08 | 24-Aug-08 |
| Winona Peach Festival | Winona | 22-Aug-08 | 24-Aug-08 |
| Shores of Erie International Wine Festival | Amherstburg | 4-Sep-08 | 7-Sep-08 |
| Toronto International Film Festival | Toronto | 4-Sep-08 | 13-Sep-08 |
| Taste of the Kingsway Festival | Etobicoke | 5-Sep-08 | 6-Sep-08 |
| Western Fair | London | 5-Sep-08 | 14-Sep-08 |
| "Come Home To The Country"-Int'l Plowing Match 08 | Teeswater | 16-Sep-08 | 20-Sep-08 |
| Niagara Grape & Wine Festival | St. Catharines | 19-Sep-08 | 28-Sep-08 |
| St. George Apple Fest & Craft Show | St. George | 19-Sep-08 | 21-Sep-08 |
| Bushplane Days 2008 | Sault Ste. Marie | 20-Sep-08 | 21-Sep-08 |
| Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon | Toronto | 28-Sep-08 | 28-Sep-08 |
| Port Elgin Pumpkinfest | Port Elgin | 4-Oct-08 | 5-Oct-08 |

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| Scotiabank Nuit Blanche | Toronto | 4-Oct-08 | 4-Oct-08 |
| Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show | Simcoe | 7-Oct-08 | 13-Oct-08 |
| Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival | Jordan | 10-Oct-08 | 13-Oct-08 |
| Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest | Kitchener-Waterloo | 10-Oct-08 | 18-Oct-08 |
| Rockton's World's Fair | Rockton | 10-Oct-08 | 13-Oct-08 |
| Waterford Pumpkin Festival | Waterford | 24-Oct-08 | 26-Oct-08 |
| Royal Agricultural Winter Fair | Toronto | 7-Nov-08 | 16-Nov-08 |
| Winter Festival of Lights | Niagara Falls | 8-Nov-08 | 5-Jan-09 |
| Festival of Northern Lights | Owen Sound | 14-Nov-08 | 4-Jan-09 |
| Calvacade of Lights 2008 | Toronto | 22-Nov-08 | 31-Dec-08 |
| Simcoe Christmas Panorama | Simcoe | 29-Nov-08 | 4-Jan-09 |
| Portage Flyer Christmas 2008 | Huntsville | 20-Dec-08 | 20-Dec-08 |
| Niagara Icewine Festival 2009 | St. Catharines | 16-Jan-09 | 25-Jan-09 |
| WinterCity 2009 | Toronto | 30-Jan-09 | 8-Feb-09 |
| Bon Soo Winter Carnival 2009 | Sault Ste. Marie | 6-Feb-09 | 15-Feb-09 |
| Winterlude 2009 | Ottawa | 6-Feb-09 | 22-Feb-09 |
| Barrie Winterfest & Festival of Ice 2009 | Barrie | 7-Feb-09 | 8-Feb-09 |
| Canadian Music Week 2009 | Toronto | 11-Mar-09 | 14-Mar-09 |
| Canada Blooms 2009 | Toronto | 11-Mar-09 | 15-Mar-09 |
| Maple In The County 2009 | Prince Edward County | March, 2009 | March, 2009 |