

## 2017 TOP 100 FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN ONTARIO ANNOUNCED

*Provincial association recognizes industry festival and event leaders*



**ONTARIO** (March 3, 2017) **Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO)** is proud to announce the 2017 Top 100 Festivals & Events in Ontario. These Top 100 recipients represent festivals and events that excel within the industry. Included in the Top 100 are the **Festivals & Events of Distinction**, a select group which represent some of the most well-known and respected celebrations in the province; celebrations which draw both an international and domestic audience.

*“Festivals and events create jobs and bring Ontario communities together to celebrate our heritage and diversity,” said Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. “I am pleased to join with Festival and Events Ontario in congratulating this year’s top 100 recipients. There are so many celebrations taking place across the province this year and our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary is the perfect opportunity to get out and discover them.”*

– Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

Submissions from FEO members were received for consideration in the fall of 2016 and were judged by an independent panel of judges. Festivals and events of all kinds from every corner of Ontario were represented in the submissions – from community festivals to internationally recognized events. The 2017 Top 100 Awards were given out on Friday, March 3 during FEO’s Annual Conference Celebrating the Past, Igniting the Future in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

FEO would like to congratulate the 2017 Top 100 Festivals & Events in Ontario:

### APRIL

Doors Open Ontario (Province Wide) Apr 1 – Oct 31

Eat & Drink Norfolk (Simcoe) Apr 6 – 8

\*Stratford Festival (Stratford) Apr 15 - Oct 29

### MAY

Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival (Toronto) May 1 - 31

SING! The Toronto Vocal Arts Festival (Toronto) May 11 – 28

Huron Fringe Birding Festival (Port Elgin) May 26 – Jun 4

### JUNE

Barrie Automotive Flea Market (Oro-Medonte) Jun 1 - 4

Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival (Orangeville) Jun 1 - 4

Streetsville Founders’ Bread and Honey Festival (Streetsville / Mississauga) Jun 2 - 4

Dundas International Buskerfest (Dundas) Jun 2 - 4

Re-Enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek (Stoney Creek) Jun 3 - 4

LaSalle Strawberry Festival (LaSalle) Jun 8 - 11

CeleBRAMPTON (Brampton) Jun 10

Oshawa Peony Festival (Oshawa) Jun 10 - 11

\*Sound of Music Festival (Burlington) Jun 10 – 18

Carrousel of Nations (Windsor) Jun 10 - 25  
\*Luminato Festival (Toronto) Jun 14 - 25  
\*TD Ottawa Jazz Festival (Ottawa) Jun 22 – Jul 2  
SALSA at Blue Mountain (Blue Mountains) Jun 23 - 25  
Niagara Falls Canada Day Celebration (Niagara Falls) Jun 30 – Jul 2

## **JULY**

Burlington's Canada Day Celebrations (Burlington) Jul 1  
Brampton Canada Day Celebrations (Brampton) Jul 1  
\*Canada Day Celebrations (Ottawa/Gatineau) Jul 1  
It's Your Festival (Hamilton) Jul 1 - Jul 3  
\*Redpath Waterfront Festival, presented by Billy Bishop Airport) Jul 1 – 3  
TD Salsa in Toronto Festival (Toronto) Jul 3 - 23  
World Heritage Sunset Ceremonies (Kingston) Jul 5 - Aug 30  
Belleville Waterfront & Ethnic Festival (Belleville) Jul 6 - 9  
TD Sunfest: Canada's Premier Celebration of World Cultures (London) Jul 6 – 9  
\*RBC Bluesfest (Ottawa) Jul 6 – 16  
\*Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival Toronto (Toronto) Jul 11 – Aug 6  
Pelham Summerfest (Fonthill) Jul 13 – 16  
\*Hillside Festival (Guelph) Jul 14 - 16  
Lighthouse Blues Festival (Kincardine) Jul 14 - 16  
Stewart Park Festival (Perth) Jul 14 – 16  
\*Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival (Ottawa) Jul 22 - Aug 4  
Festival of the Sound (Parry Sound) Jul 21 - Aug 13  
Big on Bloor Festival of Arts & Culture (Toronto) Jul 22 - 23  
Collingwood Elvis Festival (Collingwood) Jul 28 - 30

## **AUGUST**

Bancroft Rockhound Gemboree (Bancroft) Aug 3 - 6  
Glengarry Highland Games (Maxville) Aug 4 - 5  
Harbourfest (Kenora) Aug 4 - 6  
Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival (Port Colborne) Aug 4 - 7  
Sioux Lookout Blueberry Festival (Sioux Lookout) Aug 4 - 13  
MuslimFest (Mississauga) Aug 5 - 6  
\*Rogers Cup presented by National Bank (Toronto) Aug 5 - 13  
Jambana™, One World Festival (Brampton) Aug 6 - 7  
TD Kitchener Blues Festival (Kitchener) Aug 10 - 13  
Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games (Fergus) Aug 11 - 13  
Kingston Sheep Dog Trials Festival (Kingston) Aug 11 - 13  
The International Grace Jerkfest & Music Festival (Toronto) Aug 11 - 13  
\*Havelock Country Jamboree (Havelock) Aug 17 - 20  
Smooth Truck Fest (Smooth Rock Falls) Aug 17 - 20  
Carrot Fest (Bradford) Aug 18 - 19  
Mississauga ItalFEST (Mississauga) Aug 18 - 19  
Buckhorn Fine Art Festival (Buckthorn) Aug 18 - 20  
Dundas Cactus Festival (Dundas) Aug 18 - 20  
\*Canadian National Exhibition (Toronto) Aug 18 – Sep 4  
Burlington's Children's Festival (Burlington) Aug 20  
Tecumseh Corn Festival (Tecumseh) Aug 24 - 27  
The Great Canadian Kayak Challenge & Festival (Timmins) Aug 25 - 27  
Winona Peach Festival (Winona) Aug 25 - 27

## **SEPTEMBER**

Canada's Largest Ribfest (Burlington) Sept 1 - 4  
SoundBites 2017: Mississauga Celebration Square (Mississauga) Sep 2  
Meaford Scarecrow Invasion & Family Festival (Meaford) Sep 5 - Oct 16  
Jazz Sudbury (Sudbury) Sep 6 – 10  
\*Toronto International Film Festival (Toronto) Sep 7 – 17  
Supercrawl (Hamilton) Sep 8 – 10  
\*Western Fair (London) Sep 8 – 17  
\*Niagara Grape and Wine Festival (St. Catharines) Sep 8 - 24  
Canada's Only Guitar Trail at Blue Mountain (Blue Mountains) Sep 9  
St. George AppleFest (St. George) Sep 16 – 17  
Bushplane Days (Sault Ste. Marie) Sep 16 - 17  
Telling Tales Festival (Hamilton) Sep 17  
\*International Plowing Match & Rural Expo (Walton) Sep 19 – 23  
The Word on the Street Toronto (Toronto) Sep 24  
Small Halls Festival (Township of Clearview) Sep 28 – Oct 1  
Fort Fright at Fort Henry (Kingston) Sep 29 – Oct 29  
Pumpkinferno at Upper Canada Village (Morrisburg) Sep 29 – Oct 29

## **OCTOBER**

Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show (Simcoe) Oct 3 – 9  
Erin Fall Fair (Erin) Oct 5 – 9  
\*Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest (Kitchener) Oct 6 - 14  
Blue Mountains Apple Harvest Festival (Blue Mountains) Oct 7 - 9  
Aurora's Haunted Forest (Aurora) Oct 28

## **NOVEMBER**

Tree Lighting Downtown Brampton (Brampton) Nov 17  
Niagara Falls Santa Claus Parade (Niagara Falls) Nov 18  
\*OPG Winter Festival of Lights (Niagara Falls) Nov 18 – Jan 31, 2018  
First Light at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons (Midland) Nov 23 - Dec 9  
Simcoe Christmas Panorama (Simcoe) Nov 25 – Dec. 31

## **WINTER DEC 2017 TO MAR 2018**

Aurora's Tree Lighting Ceremony (Aurora) Dec 6  
Alight at Night at Upper Canada Village (Morrisburg) Dec 7 - Jan 6, 2018  
Brampton's New Years Eve (Brampton) Dec 31  
Wine & Food Show (London) Jan 18 - 20, 2018  
Bon Soo Winter Carnival (Sault Ste. Marie) Feb 2 – 11, 2018  
\*Winterlude (Ottawa/Gatineau) Feb.2 – 19, 2018  
Barrie Winterfest (Barrie) Feb 3 - 4, 2018  
Vaughan Winterfest (Vaughan) Feb 11, 2018  
Kirkland Lake Winter Carnival (Kirkland Lake) Feb 15 – Mar 4, 2018  
Voyageur Winter Carnival (Thunder Bay) Feb 17 - 19, 2018  
SnowDay (Thunder Bay) Feb 19, 2018  
\*Represents Level of Distinction festivals and events

"Celebrating the Past. Igniting the Future" 2017 FEO annual conference and Awards presentation was held at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

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**About Festivals & Events Ontario**

*Festivals and Events Ontario supports a lively, engaged and dedicated festival and events industry by sharing knowledge, enabling networking and providing leadership on education, advocacy and promotion. FEO publishes and distributes an annual Festivals and Events in Ontario guide consumer guide with a circulation of 225,000 distributed throughout the province and bordering states. Another guide is published to promote its industry supplier goods and services.*

*The festivals and events industry in Ontario is estimated to generate in excess of \$2.3 billion annually in contribution to regional GDP, create/sustain approximately 50,000 full-year-equivalent jobs and foster approximately \$1 billion dollars in taxes at all levels of government. Visit [www.FestivalsandEventsOntario.ca](http://www.FestivalsandEventsOntario.ca) for more information.*