

Monday, September 10, 2007

For Immediate Release

FestiFall celebrates local events close to home

This weekend alone offers five Great Fall Drives, five fun festivals and five other activities

NEWMARKET – The Regional Municipality of York today kicked off FestiFall, a 10-week celebration of autumn events and activities in York Region.

FestiFall features local events close to home and five Great Fall Drives that offer residents and visitors alike numerous fun opportunities to get out and enjoy the crisp autumn air and a variety of fall events in communities near you.

“The Great Fall Drives are perfect opportunities to find those unique places that make your fall weekends truly memorable,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “They lead you to great lookouts, down home festivals, talented artisans, wineries and the bounty of the harvest.”

Five Great Fall Drives in York Region include:

- York-Durham Heritage Hamlets Route
- The Winery Route
- The Markham-Stouffville Fall Colour Tour
- The Aurora-Lake Simcoe Fall Colour Tour
- The York Southwest Fall Colour Tour

“These drives make ideal day trips for an autumn weekend because they let you head off the beaten track to enjoy the abundance of the harvest without straying too far from home,” said the Region’s Planning and Economic Development Committee Chair James Young, Mayor of the Town of East Gwillimbury. “Toss away the agenda, stop along the way and discover the charming hospitality of the small towns and villages in our neck of the woods.”

Details and maps may be found in the FestiFall Guide and online at www.yorktourism.com/fall
Call 1-888-448-0000 today to request your free FestiFall Guide!

The FestiFall Guide also features fall festivals celebrating the fall harvest, community activities and the arts. This Saturday, there are **five** festivals in York Region to choose from.

The **Thornhill Village Festival** (September 15th, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) celebrates the past and present life of the community in the historic village of Thornhill. This annual street event offers something for all generations. See www.thornhillhistoric.org for details.

The **Newmarket Fall Festival** (September 15th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) features the Art Fest on Main Street Art Show, a juried art show and sale. This annual fall festival is held on Main St. and Market Square in Downtown Newmarket. See www.newmarket.ca

For more information

Details and maps for the Great Fall Drives may be found in the **FestiFall Guide** and online at www.yorktourism.com/fall

Call 1-888-448-0000 today to request your free FestiFall Guide!

For a full calendar of events please visit www.yorktourism.com

The **East Gwillimbury Fall Festival** (September 15th at 10 a.m.) offers good old fashioned country fun in the heart of Mount Albert. The day features a Chili Cook-off and Chili Pepper Eating Challenge along with outdoor family entertainment. See www.egfallfestival.com

The **York Region Fall Forest Festival** (September 15th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) presents "Take a Walk in the Forest" program in the Hollidge Tract of York Region forest. Meet members of the Regional forest advisory team and learn about some of the history of this beautiful forest. Discover the variety of seeds found in the Regional forest and their importance. Learn why trees turn colour in the fall on guided nature walks at 11 a.m. and 1p.m. See www.york.ca/services/forestry/forestry_forestry.htm

The **51st Annual Pioneer Festival at Black Creek Pioneer Village** (September 15th 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) provides you with a chance to taste delicious foods, find great crafts, hunt for bargains, enjoy a farmers' market and take in some old fashioned entertainment at this acclaimed festival that celebrates early Mennonite and Pennsylvania-German pioneer life. Don't miss the famous Mennonite Quilt Auction at noon! See www.blackcreek.ca

Five other activities:

- **The Art of Robert Bateman** at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg, from September 1st to October 28th and **Mary Pratt: Allusions**, an exhibit through September 30th.
www.mcmichael.com
- **The Urge to Abstraction** an art exhibit that is part of the Varley Art Gallery 10th Anniversary, Unionville September 9th - November 4th. www.varleygallery.ca
- **Art in the Parkette**, Main Street, Markham, Saturdays until October 6th.
www.mainstreetmarkham.com
- **Spring Hill Photography** offers escorted, drive yourself photography tours of King Township on September 16th, October 21st and November 18th. Photograph King's natural environment, local wildlife, birds, flora, fauna and heritage buildings. www.springhill-photography.com
- Mark your calendars Saturday, September 29th for a significant event – **Words Alive**, the first ever literary festival in York Region. Words Alive celebrates York Region's literary heritage and provides a showcase for contemporary local authors, including Marina Nemat, Roy MacGregor, Eliza Clarke, Barry Dempster and many more. On the grounds of the Sharon Temple in East Gwillimbury, a setting designed for inspiration, writers and readers will gather in small groups to listen to writers' interpretations of life and to explore the fine art of writing. Participate in the On-The-Spot Poetry Contest or try your pen at the youth or adult short story fiction contest. From 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
www.wordsalive.ca

For a full calendar of Festifall events, please visit www.yorktourism.com

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York and our services, please visit www.york.ca

- 30 -

Media Contact: *Tim Paleczny, Corporate Communications, York Region*
Phone: 905 830-4444 ext. 1238, 416 297-9696 or Toll free 1-877-464-9675
Cell Phone: 905 251-6413 Email: tim.paleczny@york.ca