

Sunny skies and high spirits at folk festival



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GRAFTON -- John Proctor of the Earth Tones Studio demonstrates how to play a didgeridoo made of PVC pipe at the Shelter Valley Folk Festival on Sept. 2.

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Music and warm weather present for the annual event

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GRAFTON -- New visitors were drawn to the sounds of festive folk music in the hills north of Grafton last week.

"We heard the music from our house," said Grafton resident Cindy Black who came with her three-year-old son Ben Black. The ninth annual Shelter Valley Folk Festival ran Aug. 31 to Sept. 2 on the Henkel Family Lavender Farm in Grafton. Ms. Black said it was her first year at the festival and she enjoyed the music and activities for children.

"We will be back," she said as her son worked on a craft.

Performers included a host of internationally-acclaimed singers and songwriters, which drew Toronto residents Mike and Aileen Fisher. The Fishers have been to many folk festivals, but had never been to Shelter Valley. Mr. Fisher said they "had heard good things" about the festival.

They weren't disappointed. Ms. Fisher enjoyed the sense of community.

"We think it is a great little festival," said Mr. Fisher.

The Fishers enjoyed musician Del Barber, who they hadn't heard before, said Mr. Fisher. They also liked The Once.

"We have heard (The Once), no pun intended, once before," said Mr. Fisher.

In addition to the music, the festival had a juried artists' village which showcased local potters, painters, photographers and one-of-a-kind crafts. There were also vendors serving up healthy international and regional cuisine, interactive displays, seminars and workshops courtesy of wellness practitioners and sustainable living experts; plus a family and children's area with performers, interactive arts workshops and a children's parade.

For more information on the festival, visit www.sheltervalley.com.



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GRAFTON -- Above, Andrew King Simpson, 10, joins the children's costume parade at the Shelter Valley Folk Festival on Sept. 1. Top right, Elias Deviney Martin, 9, and bottom right, Emma Oosting, 6, join in as well.