

FESTIVAL AMONG ONTARIO'S TOP EVENTS

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Acton's Leathertown Festival has been named one of the top festivals in the province.

Festival and Events Ontario (FEO) awarded the local festival a Top 100 Events in Ontario award, during the FEO's annual conference in Richmond Hill.

The top 100 events were determined based on several criteria, including the uniqueness of the event, audience appeal, economic impact to the community, and overall quality of the event experience.

Events were judged by an independent panel of judges who adjudicated submissions from community festivals to internationally recognized events.

"This is exciting news for our community and our festival," Alex Hilson, Acton BIA co-ordinator, said



Ray Lavender photo

Legendary children's performer Fred Penner entertains a large crowd at a recent Acton Leathertown Festival on Sunday. The annual celebrates Acton's rich history in leather craftsmanship.

in a prepared release. "This award is a well-deserved nod toward the exceptional efforts put forward by the organizers and participants of this event over decades. I'd particularly like to thank our event co-ordinator, Kim Duncanson, who was instrumental in getting this award for our

town." The Leathertown Festival was originally named "Back to Acton Days" when it began in 1977. The festival was renamed in 1992. Today, the festival exists as a celebration of Canadian craftsmanship, and 2020 will be the festival's 43rd year.

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When do Children have the right to decide whether they will live with their mother or father?

A

There is one clear answer to this question. When a child is 16 years old they can decide which parent to live with or they can live on their own without either parent. Under 16 the wishes of the child are established in court through the Children's Lawyer after conducting an assessment. How much of a say the child has is a factor of age and maturity. A mature 7 year old may have his or her wishes explained to a Judge but would be given very little weight. A 14 year old's wishes in almost all cases determines whether they will live with mom or dad. The older and more mature a child gets the more weight is given to the child's wishes.

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