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14th annual Leathertown Festival on Sunday promises fun for all

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

With the 14th annual

Leathertown Festival just days away, the festival committee chair, confident Sunday's event will be the

best ever, is already looking ahead to next year.

"I'd like to see it get more culture – maybe bring (in) some ethnic music... or maybe have a festival theme," chair, and BIA coordinator Josey Bonnette said after a committee meeting last Thursday.

While Bonnette doesn't want Leathertown Festival to turn into "vendor fest," she reported there are only eight vendor spots left to be rented, at \$50 each, and with 156 spaces already rented, it's the most ever.

Last year, there were 130 paying vendors. This year, vendors from as far away as Orillia and Niagara Falls, will sell "everything and anything," Bonnette said.

She said that with the length of Mill Street, its hard not to turn the festival into a vendor fest, and agree it is a fine line between staging a festival and flea market.

"I want it to be a downtown Acton festival to celebrate Acton, our merchants and to draw people into our merchants, not just to the vendors. So it is. It's a fine line.

You have to be very careful," Bonnette said.

For those who don't want to shop, the free fun and entertainment runs non-stop all day long, beginning at the opening ceremonies at the main stage at 11 a.m. with a rousing rendition of O Canada.

A partial list of the acts includes presentations by the Everybody Dance Club from Robert Little School, Classic Karate and Acton Jiu Jitsu. The Festival's first Ambassador, Dana Bowman, will be crowned and at noon, the Acton Citizens' Band takes the stage, followed by the L.T.D. Band at 1 p.m.

The Acton Idol Contest finalists vie for the title beginning at 2 p.m., and recording artists Alysha Brooks and JennaLynn Flesch will also perform.

Frederick Street will be transformed into an Artisan's Corner – seven artists

and crafts people have rented spaces already – they get a \$25 half price rate – but organizer Paula Nicole is not concerned.

She said some artists are notoriously "fickle" and won't book a space until the last minute, which has happened in past years.

"We have painters, sculptors, jewellery makers, and this person makes concrete garden sculptures and bird-baths,"

Nicole said, adding the Artisan's Corner is an important part of the Festival.

"It's a very important part of our community – it's the culture of the community," she said, adding kids will be able to purchase and decorate pre-fired ceramics and create their own works of art in a sidewalk chalk area.

The east end of town, the Alexanian parking lot, has been designated Kid's Zone for the festival, and there are events for all tastes – literally if you like cream pie, because that's what kids, aged six to 12, will have to wolf down in record time to win the pie eating contest.

"The kids just love the pie eating contest – they come in throngs and it's absolutely hilarious with cream up their nose and in their ears," Bonnette said, adding the contest is open to kids aged five to 10, and

Continued on page 9

Stephen Attwell

Susan Seeds

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MAIN STAGE

Located at Mill & Main

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 11:00 am Opening Ceremonies
Sean Ryan - O' Canada
Mayor & Council Introductions
Festival Committee Introductions
Cheque presentation
Leathertown Ambassador
Crowning
- 12:30 pm Acton Citizens' Band
- 1:00 pm L.T.D. (Life Time Drive)
- 2:00 pm "Acton Idol" Contest Final
- 2:30 pm Cedar Trail Recording Artist,
Alysha Brooke
- 3:30 pm JennaLynn Flesch

Enjoy The Festival

Margaret
&
Bob
MacKinnon

Leathertown Festival Street Vendors

- Chow Down BBQ
- Manny's Roadhouse
- The Startlight Cafe
- Trinity United Church
- Acton Curling Club
- After Dark Productions
- Bling
- Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment
- Esquesing Historical Society
- Halton Region Health Dept.
- Hy-Grade Roofing systems
- J & K Professional Make up Artist
- Soleil Natural
- Stampin' Up
- Tupperware
- Water Depot
- The Pampered Chef
- Reiki By Chantel
- TD Canada TRUST

- Bacon on a Bun
- Food & Outdoor patio
- Food & Outdoor patio
- Pies, Hot & Cold drinks
- Curling Membership- Sports
- Screamfest Haunt Attraction
- Italian Charms, Silver Jewellery etc.
- Non-Profit Exhibit
- Pamphlets & Historical Material
- Rural Water Literature
- Steel Roofs
- Face & Body art
- Handcrafted Furniture
- Cards, Scapbooking Supplies
- Tupperware
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- Pampered Chef Products
- Initiative Readings, Reiki info
- Opening October 3, 2005

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