



Festivals and Events Ontario Concludes Virtual Summit and Announces 2021 Award Winners.

In December 2020, the Board of Directors of Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO) made the decision to Adapt, Pivot and Evolve from the scheduled in-person annual FEO Conference on February 22-24, 2021 in the beautiful city of Niagara Falls, to a Virtual on-line Summit. There were obvious concerns that we would not be able to accurately present the typical FEO Conference experience in an on-line environment, the reality was, there was nothing typical about COVID-19 and the way it had decimated the festival and event industry in Ontario. The Board and Staff of FEO felt it was incredibly important to present something to our membership base that would lift their spirits, help them connect and network with their peers, and provide education and information about what the new normal for our industry will be as we recover from the pandemic.

We proclaimed February as FEO Month and every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we presented a fun and educational virtual experience for our members featuring live entertainment, mental health sessions and round table discussions covering a plethora of topics ranging from Government Grants to Risk Management, Emergency Preparedness to Insurance Post Pandemic and everything in between. To see a complete schedule of events for the FEO 2021 Virtual Summit visit www.feosummit.com. FEO is a not-for-profit organization and charged a nominal fee to attend the Summit in an attempt to recoup a portion of the money lost from not hosting an in-person conference.

FEO also made changes to its annual awards program as it was impossible to conduct one in a status quo manner. We were aware that many FEO Members still managed to get the creative juices flowing and held a virtual experience this year to keep their audience entertained and engaged and to keep their festival or event top of mind. In addition, many of our supplier members showed great ingenuity and courage by pivoting away from their usual line of business to embrace the need for PPE, hand sanitation, fencing, barriers and more to assist municipalities and private sector with COVID-19 protocols. Individuals and organizations needed to be recognized and congratulated for bravely jumping into the unknown, learning the

ropes and successfully keeping their business or event alive during these troubling times.

We were pleased to unveil the FEO Achievement Program specifically for our FEO Members in 2019 and 2020 that were able to **Adapt - Pivot - Evolve**. These aren't just buzz words; they are strong pillars for our industry as it navigates its way through an unprecedented global pandemic.

Festivals and Events Ontario would like to congratulate the following festival and event 2021 Award recipients.

2021 Achievement Awards

SING! The Toronto Vocal Arts Festival
Canada Day The Niagara Way
Belmont Village Bestival
Port Elgin Pumpkinfest
City of Vaughan Menorah Lighting
Taste of Clearview
Port Hope Santa Claus Parade
Newmarket 46th Annual Turkey Luncheon
Aurora's Movies in the Park
Brampton Remembrance Day
Georgina's Drive-Thru Parade of Lights
Christmas in Pelham
Aurora's Santa Under the Stars
Brampton New Year's Eve 2021
Port Hope Arts Festival
Vaughan Celebrates Concerts in the Park
Newmarket Moonlight Movies
Richmond Hill Canada Day
Sioux Lookout Blueberry Festival
Bradford West Gwillimbury Carrot Fest
World of Jazz Festival
Paris Fair 2020
Grace International Jerk Food & Music Festival
Supercrawl 2020
Fort William Haunted Fort Night
Oshawa Peony Festival
Christmas in Cambridge
Southside Shuffle Blues & Jazz Festival
Markham's Virtual Canada Day
Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games
Brampton Winter Lights Festival
Aurora's Haunted Greenhouse
Pickering Summer Concerts
Muslimfest 2020
Ajax Pumpkinville Halloween

Mississauga Winter Programming
Markham National Indigenous People's Day
Oshawa Celebrates
St. George Apple Fest
Dundas Cactus Festival
Clearview Canada Day Celebrations
Pumpkins After Dark
TD Sunfest Connected '20
Oakville Fireside Chat with Santa
TD Niagara Jazz Festival
Collingwood Art Crawl
Richmond Hill Santa's Workshop
Barrie Canada Day Celebrations
Vaughan Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
Kitchener Christkindl Market
Coney Island "Maybe Annual" Festival
Georgina Field to Table Farm Tour
Port Hope Candlelight Festival
Aurora Multicultural Festival
Orangeville Summer Concerts
Clearview Virtual Holiday Greeting
Town of Caledon Winterfest 2021
Barrie Downtown Countdown NY Eve
Westben Concerts at the Barn
Richmond Hill Concerts in the Parking Lot
Pickering Tree Lighting Ceremony
Clearview's Christmas in the Valley
Vaughan Canada Day
Oakville Firefighter Toy Drive
Windsor BIA Winter Fest 2020
Vibrant Brampton
Markham-Milliken Children's Festival
Aurora Concerts in the Park
Goderich Festival of Lights 2020
Sarnia Christmas off the Farm
Belleville Waterfront and Multicultural Festival
Amherstburg River Lights Festival
Aurora's Family First Night
Ajax Merry & Bright Festival
Goderich Canada Day Celebrations
Telling Tales Festival
Collingwood Art of Winter Festival
Aurora's Christmas Market
Thunder Bay Virtual Live
Brampton Canada Day
Stayner Santa Tour
Pickering Artfest of the Esplanade
Vaughan Jean Augustine Complex Commemoration
Newmarket Santa Claus Lane
Bradford West Gwillimbury Pumpkin Fest
Light Up Orillia Lake Country

Burlington Canada Day Celebration
Amherstburg Uncommon Festival
Christmas Season in St. Marys
Sound of Music Festival @Home
Canada Day the Durham Way
Small Halls Festival
Santa's Holiday Magic Trail
Eden Mills Writers Festival
Collingwood Live & Original Music Initiative
Pickering Santa at the Drive In

2021 Service Excellence Awards

The Ontario Lottery & Gaming Corporation
Classic Displays
Modu-Loc Fence Rentals
X-Events
INCIRQUE
Impact Canopies Canada
Mega Magic

2021 Volunteer of the Year Awards

Marek Ruta - Carassauga Festival of Cultures
Monica Reid - Kitchener Christkindl Market
Michelle Bergauer - Belmont Village Bestival
Scott Dynes - Burlington Santa's Holiday Magic Trail
Gregory McKnight - Grace International Jerk Food & Music Festival
Herb Jung - Port Hope Arts Festival
Barry Hussey - St. George Apple Fest
Adamson-Price Family - Port Hope Santa Claus Parade

We congratulate all of the above FEO Award winners and hope that this recognition helps generate some enthusiasm in their community and anticipation that we are one step closer to a return to normal were we can gather, celebrate and enjoy festivals and events together in person.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Dave MacNeil
CEO
Festivals and Events Ontario
dave@festivalsandeventsontario.ca

