



# HWYL

WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ARRIVING AT THE FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK

There is a great amount of construction taking place around the Fairmont Royal York. This is a city project, not connected with the hotel, although it does affect access to the hotel. **If you are driving to Toronto, please check the hotel's website for update information and maps on the best way to gain access to the hotel, drop-off and parking. God to [www.fairmont.com/royal-york-toronto](http://www.fairmont.com/royal-york-toronto) and click on directions.**

If you need handicapped access, the **ONLY** door that you can use is the East Door. All other doors require the use of stairs. The East door is currently where valet parking drop-off/pick-up is located. Valet parking is available at the Fairmont for a cost of \$48 per 24 hours. Additional nearby parking is available through the Toronto Parking Authority. The closest lot is on York Street and is available at a cost of \$24 per 24 hours during the week and \$14 per 24 hours on weekends and holidays. Visit [www.greenp.com](http://www.greenp.com) for further information and locations of additional parking facilities.

If you are arriving by taxi, please specifically ask to be dropped off at the **EAST DOOR**. Ask the taxi driver to approach the hotel on Front St. via Yonge Street. This is by far the most convenient and straightforward way to get to the hotel. Some taxis may try and drop you at the West door, but this is **NOT** the preferred entry to the hotel and can be confusing.

If you are arriving via the Airport Express bus, please be aware that the bus will drop you off a half block west of the hotel and on the south side of Front Street. It is, approximately, a five-minute walk to the hotel's main entrance, located on the north side of Front Street. We plan to have local volunteers available to guide attendees during peak arrival hours.

If you are a member of the Fairmont's President Club, you are entitled to complimentary internet access as well as other little perks. You must join the club before arriving at the hotel. Additional information can be found on their website, listed above. Here is the enrollment link for your convenience: [www.fairmont.com/fpc](http://www.fairmont.com/fpc).

**The FESTIVAL REGISTRATION area will be located on the CONVENTION LEVEL, which is the third floor of the hotel.**

**SEE YOU THERE!**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION IF YOU *DO NOT* HAVE A CONFIRMED BOOKING AT THE FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK

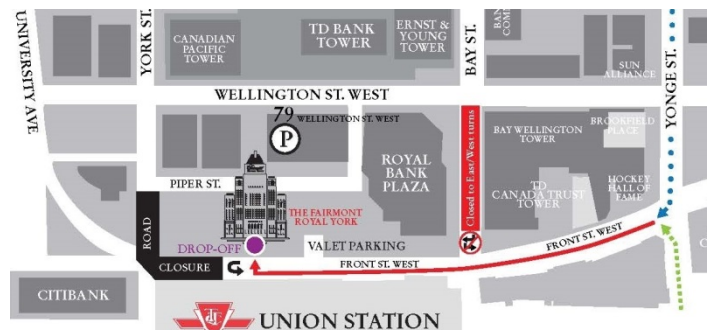
As many of you may be aware, the original block of rooms reserved for NAFOW at the Fairmont Royal York filled very quickly. The hotel set aside additional rooms at a higher rate. These rooms also sold out. We are very surprised, but pleased, at the larger than usual turnout. The Fairmont may still have rooms available, but they are not part of our block and rates are set at the discretion of the Fairmont. Their usual daily rates start from \$239+.

We have made additional arrangements at the following nearby properties in Toronto and these rooms may be booked subject to availability. The nightly rates are as follows:

Novotel Toronto Centre: From \$119+. 1-416-367-8900. Group name: North American Festival of Wales. The Novotel is, approximately, a ten-minute walk from the Fairmont Royal York, where all events will take place.

Intercontinental Toronto Centre: From \$229+. Contact: 1-800-235-4670. Group name: North American Festival of Wales. The Intercontinental is, approximately, a five-minute walk from the Fairmont Royal York.

If you currently have a reservation at the Fairmont and your circumstances change, or have changed, **PLEASE CALL MEGAN WILLIAMS, 607-279-7402, BEFORE CANCELING YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE HOTEL.** She can cancel your reservation and allocate these rooms to other festival attendees, if you notify her by August 15. Otherwise the Royal York's policy requires a 72-hour cancellation notice.



**Directions to Front Entrance of Fairmont Royal York. Accessible Entrance is at Valet Parking. Airport Express Bus stop on south side of Front St. to Left Of "Citibank."** (Go to [www.fairmont.com/royal-york-toronto](http://www.fairmont.com/royal-york-toronto) and click on "directions" for latest conditions.)

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**MISSION**

*The Welsh North American Association strives to preserve, develop and promote our Welsh cultural heritage and traditions, including the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, and to do all things necessary and appropriate to accomplish these goals.*

**HWYL** is published quarterly by the  
 Welsh North American Association.

Editors: Richard Donohoe and David Matthews  
 Direct comments or inquiries to [editor@theWNAA.org](mailto:editor@theWNAA.org)

**!CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!**

If you have a few hours to spare and are willing to help at this year's festival, please contact Megan Williams at [IHQ@thewnaa.org](mailto:IHQ@thewnaa.org) or 607-279-7402. We need volunteers to help at the Registration desk and with Banquet seating. Your help is very much appreciated and it is useful to have a list of volunteers ready in advance. Volunteering is a great way to meet people and make new friends!

**US/CANADIAN CURRENCY**

WNAA will accept both US and Canadian currency at par throughout the festival. We have encouraged all vendors in the Marketplace to do the same, although this is optional. ATMs are available at the hotel and in the underground shopping centers which are connected to the hotel.

**FYI from IHQ** by Megan Williams

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. I have been busy filling registrations and again would like to thank all of those who have registered early. This is a final reminder that all postal registrations must be received by AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup>. I need to pack, prepare inventory and ship all festival supplies to Canada and everything must clear Customs. After August 1<sup>st</sup>, online registration will remain open until Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

When submitting registrations, please ensure that you have made the necessary meal selections. The Thursday, Saturday and Sunday meals will be open seating. Seating for the banquet will again be available throughout the times that the Registration desk is open. We would like to mention that the suggested minimum dress code for the banquet is "smart casual."



The Fairmont Royal York is a very large hotel. Our events will be taking place on 3 levels, all accessible by elevator. We will do our best to have everything well signposted and have a large team of local volunteers who will be ready, willing and able to help. All events will take place in the hotel.

Please pay careful attention to the additional article on Page 1 of this issue which gives important information for arriving at the Fairmont. I look forward to seeing you in Toronto and as always, feel free to contact me with questions you may have.

**BUS TO TORONTO**

If you have not yet decided to come to this year's festival and live in Pennsylvania or New York, there is still time and there are still a few seats left on the NAFOW Express. The cost is \$125 per person. Pick-up Thursday August 29<sup>th</sup> in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton, PA and Binghamton, Owego and Ithaca, NY. Return, Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contact Megan Williams as soon as possible to reserve your place.

**15% DISCOUNT**

If you are attending this year's North American Festival of Wales, be sure to take advantage of this offer from the Fairmont Royal York. Festival attendees are entitled to a 15% discount on in-room dining and on food in all hotel restaurants (not the deli). Please make sure your server is aware you are part of our group in order to get the discount. Valid from 8/28-9/2.



## THE 2013 MARKETPLACE



Whether you come to shop or simply to gawk, you will not want to miss the jaw-dropping splendor of the Royal York Ballroom, setting for the 2013 NAFOW Marketplace, a veritable Hall of Mirrors, with crystal chandeliers and sconces, grand arches and patterned vaults, a symphony of rich blues and golds. There you will find vendors showing their wares, Welsh and Celtic-themed jewelry, books, music, clothing, accessories and travel information, and you will find educational and cultural organizations displaying their unique features and services. Many of them are highlighted here:

### THE MADOG CENTER FOR WELSH STUDIES



The Madog Center for Welsh Studies, established in 1997, has as its mission to “foster understanding and appreciation for Welsh heritage and contemporary Welsh culture”. Located on the campus of the University of Rio Grande, a small private institution with a community college located within, the center serves as the hub of the Welsh-American community in southeastern Ohio. Components of the center include a student exchange program with the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, in Carmarthen, Wales; management of the Welsh Scenic Byway under the Ohio Scenic Byways Program; an ongoing Oral History project; collaboration on theater

projects at the University; the annual Madog Faculty Fellowship; an extensive Welsh library including genealogical and family history materials; ongoing preservation of Welsh records and ephemera; the Davis Internship that provides for a fluent Welsh-speaker annually; *y Bont* newsletter; assistance with the Welsh-American Heritage Museum including preservation projects; and affiliation with Welsh societies locally, regionally and nationally with WNAA.

## LOVESPOONS

Few symbols of Wales are more iconic than the lovespoon. As a good Welsh tradition should be, the lovespoon’s story is one of drama, romance, some fierce competition, a few unhappy missteps and a laugh or two!!



Dave Western was born in Cardiff, Wales, and now lives in Victoria, British Columbia. For the last twenty years, he has dedicated himself to lovespoon carving and his work is found in collections throughout the world. He is the author of *The Fine Art of Carving Lovespoons* and *History of Lovespoons*. Don’t miss his table in the Marketplace. Ask Dave for his card and have a look at his website: [www.davidwesternlovespoon.com](http://www.davidwesternlovespoon.com).

Laura Jenkins Gorun lives in Ohio and is of Welsh descent. After nearly twenty years in the Financial Services industry, she was feeling drawn towards the arts and became captivated by the art and concept of Welsh lovespoons, making her first for her boyfriend (now husband). She continues to explore this craft, working from her private studio near Columbus, Ohio. Laura is one of the few female lovespoon carvers in a traditionally male field. Visit her website at [www.jenkinslovespoons.com](http://www.jenkinslovespoons.com).



## CELTIC STONework

Duncan MacDonald is a sculptor of Celtic designs, historic and medieval seals, and clan badges. He hand-carves the original design and casts it in cement fondu using an 18<sup>th</sup> century process. His inspiration stems from



his heritage, from his mother’s home in the Nantlle Valley of North Wales, and from the Scottish highlands where his father was raised and where he lives.

One of his popular pieces is the Welsh dragon, either in its traditional red or in a natural

stone that can withstand the outdoors. Others pieces include commissioned works of the Book of Kells and the Lindisfarne gospels. Duncan was also approved by the Scottish Heraldic Court to carve the official seal of Robert the Bruce, which compliments the range of historic seals he has researched and presented in wall plaque size. His own designs come from a range of influences, including Pictish and traditional Celtic knot-work patterns. Visit him at [DuncanCelticStonework.com](http://DuncanCelticStonework.com).



# PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

Situated in the north west of Wales, Bangor University has over 10,000 students, twenty-three academic Schools grouped into five Colleges and over 650 teaching staff. Founded in 1884, Bangor University has a long tradition of excellence in both academic standards and student experience, and with subjects ranging from Accountancy to Zoology, Bangor prides itself on offering its students a caring and supportive university community in a stunning location. As a result of its comprehensive Language Policy, Bangor University has the highest number and broadest range of modules that can be studied through the medium of Welsh of all of the universities in Wales. It is also regarded as having the best bilingual services and support for students.

Bangor University is delighted to be attending the North American Festival of Wales in Toronto, following a successful presence at the 2012 festival. We hope to meet many alumni and supporters of the University during the festival and are looking forward to meeting new friends with connections to North Wales.

**DON'T FORGET YOUR PASSPORT!**  
A VALID U.S. PASSPORT IS  
REQUIRED TO ENTER AND RETURN FROM  
CANADA

## TAKE A HIKE!

The Wales Coast Path has been developed by the Welsh Government in partnership with Natural Resources Wales, incorporating the former Countryside Council for Wales, sixteen local authorities and two National Parks.

The idea was developed out of a desire to build on the economic success of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail and the Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path – both of which are major contributors to the visitor economy of Wales. While the Coast Path is important for the Welsh economy, it is also seen as an important initiative in encouraging both locals and visitors to discover and enjoy Wales' outdoor spaces and the health and welfare benefits it can provide.

Improvements to the quality and alignment of the route continue to ensure that the path follows the Welsh coastline as closely as is safe and practical. Over time, the Wales Coast Path is expected to lead to the creation of circular coastal routes, as links to the inland towns and villages are improved.

Visit our exhibit in the NAFOW Marketplace and have a look at our website, [www.walescoastpath.gov.uk](http://www.walescoastpath.gov.uk). Make your next holiday in Wales invigorating!



## NWAF



The National Welsh-American Foundation is a non-profit organization established in 1980 in North America and Wales to support and coordinate Welsh-American Cultural and educational activities. The Foundation is dedicated to:

- promoting continuous contact between Wales and people of Welsh descent in North America.
- encouraging the exchange of artists, choirs and performers.
- awarding scholarships and fellowships to students of American and Welsh educational institutions.
- promoting and sponsoring exchange visits.
- assisting education and charitable institutions and organizations in North America in the advancement of Welsh culture and the Welsh language.



## RUACH CRAFTS

Ruach Crafts is proud to be welcoming the delegates to the North American Festival of Wales to our home base, Toronto. We boast the largest selection of Celtic needlework charts and kits in Canada, some that were designed exclusively for us, and currently are still only distributed by us. Our products come from Great Britain, Australia, Canada and the United States. We are also the Canadian distributor of Fabric Flair material, the Grip N Stitch and Grip N Frame, which comes out of Europe and the Original TheraGlove from the United States. In addition, we carry all of the "hard to find" accessories like towels, bibs, bookmarks, aida bands, and thread organizers that double as scissors. Follow Ruach Crafts on Facebook, check out our website or follow our blog at [spiritofyourstitching.blogspot.ca](http://spiritofyourstitching.blogspot.ca). Help Ruach Crafts help you keep the spirit in your stitching!



Over the years, Berwyn Jones, Martha Davies and their volunteers have found that all of Welsh-America finds its way to the Marketplace at NAFOW. So if they stay at their GPWHP Marketplace table, you all are sure to find them during the festival. What will you find at their Marketplace table (besides them)?

- GPWHC'S quarterly newsletter *Diwygiad* with news of their Archive building project, their 5th Welsh Heritage Festival (October 4-6, 2013), Stories of the Welsh Pioneers, outreach projects, and membership forms.
- Information about ordering their Welsh-American history books (*Hanes Cymry America 1872 History of the Welsh in America* and books about Jackson, Ohio; Proscairon, Wisconsin and Utica, N.Y.) translated from Welsh and indexed.
- A reminder that you will find obituaries translated from *Y Drych*, photos, Welsh Heritage Festival info and a registration form, plus order form for their publications, and a "donate" button at the GPWHC website [www.welshheritage.org](http://www.welshheritage.org).
- They are proud to provide subscription forms for *Cambria Magazine* on behalf of the publisher in Wales.

## GOODS FROM SHAMROCK COTTAGE

John Luskin from Shamrock Cottage will be back again at the NAFOW Marketplace. John will once again be bringing goods from his Mentor, Ohio, based shop, Shamrock Cottage. Merchandise connected with Wales will include rugs, jackets, various types of hats, tee-shirts, glassware, afghans, family name keychain fobs, ornaments, Christmas cards, and greeting cards in Welsh. John will accept both US and Canadian currency and all credit cards. John looks forward to seeing you all in Toronto!

## NINNAU & Y DRYCH

*The North American Welsh Newspaper*



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***An ideal gift for birthdays, anniversaries,  
graduations and the holidays.***

*Come, visit the NINNAU & Y DRYCH table in the Marketplace*

## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS LEND A HELPING HAND

Supplying local volunteers – and Welsh cakes! – the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association, the St. David’s Society of Toronto, along with the Ottawa Welsh Society, will be busy assisting WNAA with the Toronto Festival. The OGGGA was formed in 1957, and its first venture was to sponsor the 28<sup>th</sup> National Gymanfa Ganu at Toronto in 1959. The Ottawa Welsh Society sponsored the “National” in 2000. Those were the days when the “National” was organized and put on by local societies each year, before it became the North American Festival of Wales and was staged by WNAA’s predecessor organization.

OGGA’s next venture was the local Gymanfa Ganu at Niagara Falls first held in 1961. Visitors to that event included 250 people from Ohio who arrived by special train. Each year at the end of April, the OGGGA celebrates its Gymanfa Ganu at Niagara Falls.

The Saint David’s Society of Toronto dates from 1887. By the early 1900s the primary objective of the society was to provide a “home away from home” for newcomers from *Yr Hen Wlad*. While it has been difficult to retain the Welsh language, many in the following generations have an inherent love for all things Welsh. It is the duty of the

Saint David’s Society to encourage and foster this spirit in Welsh Canadians.

Legend has it that there has been a Welsh Society in Ottawa since the early 1900s but the current Ottawa Welsh Society, began in the 1950s. 125 families and individuals meet to enjoy a *Noson Lawen* with a traditional Welsh meal in the fall, a traditional Christmas service of carols and lessons, a St. David’s Day lunch with a guest speaker and musical entertainment and a St David’s Day *cymanfa*. We also occasionally have pub nights and movie nights and we always enjoy entertaining visiting choirs from Wales. Once a month, Welsh speakers get together for an “*Awr Sgwrsio*”.

## ATTENTION AWOS

The annual meeting of Affiliated Welsh Organizations will be held Friday, August 30, from 9:00 – 10:30 AM. This is the once a year opportunity for representatives of Welsh groups across the US and Canada to share ideas and experiences and to do a little “networking.”

Plan to be represented at the AWO meeting and at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday morning as well. Send your representative’s name to Megan Williams, WNAA Executive Secretary, no later than August 15 by email: wnaahq@gmail.com or by telephone: 607-279-7402 or by post: P O Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886.