

Here comes summer! Seems like all the festivals in the world fall in the few short months between now and September, and boy, do we have a bunch of 'em! Here's a heads up for your advance planning: Now entering its 50 somethingth year, the the Verona Lions Jamboree never fails to draw a crowd with its winning formula of good old fashioned carnival fun. The midway, for instance, is just the right size for young folk to stretch their independence a little. Every year we see a preschooler on his first kiddie ride for his very own self or a youngster boldly heading off to her first solo loop the loop, thinking she's on her own, little knowing that mom is watching her from the sausage booth. Meanwhile the teens are playing a little Crown & Anchor or just strolling the grounds hoping to be seen. Save your loonies for the Lions games of chance and your appetite for the hamburgs with fried onions. Back by popular demand this year is the Saturday pancake breakfast outside in the Bingo tent at the Farmers Market. July 5 - 7.

The Verona Festival August 10 -12 is 12 years old this year. It's a celebration of community, and the community responds with gusto. A committee of 20 or 30 keeners has been planning all year for this weekend of wacky games, great food, and fabulous entertainment – all with a local flavour. Word has it that festival mascot, Cameron the Bog Lemming, has plans for a holiday away this year. He tells us that his cousin Cameron (that would be his *other* cousin Cameron) is very excited to be able to stand in for him. We can't wait to see what happens! And did you know that the post office receives so many requests for our special Cameron postmark it's being used almost all year round now? It's a collector's item.

And as if that weren't enough summer fun: The Lions are adding a new treat to round off the summer. The first Verona Lions Garlic Festival steps onto the scene on the Saturday before Labour Day. This promises to be a doozie of an event, with vendors of all kinds (including your favourite Frontenac Farmers Market folk) special exhibits and demonstrations and a gourmet lunch featuring all things garlic (wonder if there's a breath freshener concession?). Watch for more details as the summer progresses. Those lunch tickets will go fast.

Speaking of Lions, the final figures are in for the 50's and 60's theme night fundraiser, and the Lions have \$3200 toward the Verona and area medical initiative to bring and keep doctors in the village – the best theme night proceeds ever.

Women take note: The morning of June 8th at the Ontario Breast Screening Clinic in Kingston is reserved for rural women's breast screening. There's even free transportation for up to ten women, thanks to the generosity of Harry Revell. Call the clinic to reserve your screening: 613-384-4284. Then, if you need a ride, call Rural VISIONS 376-6477. This is a perfect opportunity to do that chore you know you should do but always put off till next season. It could save your life.

The Verona webpage www.veronacommunity.on.ca gets quite a few requests for information about cottage rentals. If you have cottages for rent, the best way to get the word out is to donate to the Verona Festival because part of their thank you is a business listing on the website. Call Judy Conway 374-3807 or John McDougall 374-2516 for more information.

Friday marks a special birthday for Gladys Smith. We're not saying which decade, but it rhymes with "GREAT", which is what she is.