



L to R: Pumpkins, pumpkins everywhere; Give pumpkin bowling your best shot

# GET YOUR ORANGE ON WITH PUMP-GAN-FEST

By Lorraine Payette

It's still warm, but the days are shortening and the leaves are flaming with colour. School has started, the harvest is almost completely in and it won't be long before we're digging out the parkas, mitts and toques, as we stoke the fires to get through yet another Ontario winter.

Pump-GAN-Fest is the perfect way to get out and celebrate those blissful remaining days of golden light and warmth. Not just a lead-in to Halloween-month, it is dedicated to everything pumpkin, it allows kids to play and create, and allows adults to become kids again for one very special Saturday each fall.

"Gananoque Lions Club member Jim Boltin started this about 8 years ago as an event for the Club," said Dianne Delaney, Lion and spokesperson for Pump-GAN-Fest. "This is not a fundraiser for the Lions, but is a day to show our appreciation to the communities that have always supported us and to remember Lion Jim who has passed away."

Boltin was best known as a pillar of the Gananoque community, involved in numerous events and projects which inspired and entertained residents of all ages. The Pump-GAN-Fest was one of his most joyous

inspirations, as he invited everyone to get out and have some good old fashioned fun in the Town Park.

"It's not a money-maker for us by any stretch of the imagination," Boltin said of the festival in 2011. "It is meant to be a fun day for kids held in the park in conjunction with Doors Open. We don't advertise it a lot because it is really a community event."

This community event has become that sweet focal point between the end of summer and the start of winter, a blissful last hurrah before everyone has to get serious again.

"Pump-GAN-Fest is a family day in Town Park from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm," said Lisa Bird of the Red Cow Society. "The original concept was about the Lions Club giving back to the community. The Red Cow Society has come onboard to assist them and we're off to a great partnership. My role is to bring some interesting vendors to the park and schedule entertainment. We have had a great variety of bands from the local sound and even a Nashville recording artist. To end it all we always have a real crowd pleaser with 'Elvis'. This year we will have a Jell-O eating

competition, Pumpkin Seed spitting contest, and colouring contest. Rumour has it we may have a VIP Jell-O Eating Contest!! We will see who we can muster up to make a great challenge, but for now we're looking for the best in entertainment, so everyone will have a fantastic time."

In addition to contests featuring local celebrities and great music, you can always count on lots of fun pumpkin activities – pumpkin bowling, pumpkin hockey, pumpkin carving and decorating, guessing the weight of the Great Pumpkin, face painting, vendors selling all kinds of great pumpkin goodies, and pumpkin art. If it's related to the pumpkin, you can count on it being part of Pump-GAN-Fest.

"The kids love coming here every year," said Anne Peters at last year's event. "They get a chance to be creative, have a good time and play with their friends. The activities are free, and we can always find some kind of great tasting locally made goodies at the food vendors."

Pump-GAN-Fest will be held rain or shine on October 3 from 10:00-3:00 in Gananoque Town Park. [LH](#)