



1. WHEN IS CANAL FEST ?

Typically the 8 day festival runs the third full week of July each year.
The 2015 dates are: Sunday through Sunday, July 19-26

2. WHERE IS CANAL FEST ?

Along the banks of the Erie Canal shared by the Cities of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda, N.Y. Festivities are set up on Niagara and Young Streets in Tonawanda and Webster and Sweeney Streets in North Tonawanda.

([CLICK HERE TO SEE MAP](#))

3. WHERE CAN I PARK?

Free parking is available at all public parking areas around Canal Fest. Private lot parking may be available, ranging from \$3 - \$5. Parking is free on public streets. Always be aware of where you park and obey all signs stating NO PARKING or LIMITED PARKING ONLY. This applies not only to the street, but also public and private lots. Both cities will ticket and possibly tow your vehicle depending on the situation.

4. IS THERE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO CANAL FEST?

NFTA Bus service is normally available from locations throughout Western New York to the Canal Fest area. Click here for a full NFTA bus schedule (schedule subject to change). For more information, please [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the NFTA/Metro.

5. CAN I RENT A STROLLER or WHEELCHAIR?

Yes. Complete Home Health Care on Broad near Main St., in Tonawanda offers rentals of strollers, wheelchairs and electric scooters. Call 716 694-2253 or 800 240-3188 or [CLICK HERE](#) to go to their web site

Note: Rentals are on a first-come, first service basis and cannot be reserved in advance. Complete Home Health Care's policy is to rent electric carts only to individuals who have medical or physical needs. Complete Home Health Care does not rent to children or young adults. In addition, Complete Home Health Care will "wrist band" the renter, in order to visibly identify the only "authorized" operator of the electric cart.

6. IS THERE A CHARGE TO ATTEND CANAL FEST?

Admission into Canal Fest is always free. This includes Canal Fest music venues and special events unless otherwise stated.

7. WHAT TIME DOES CANAL FEST START EACH DAY ?

Opening Sunday - Noon to 11pm (midway rides & games opens at 5pm)

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri - 5pm to 11pm

Wednesday - 1pm to 11pm

Saturday - 10am to 11pm

Closing Sunday - 10am to 10pm

Most member organization food concessions open daily at noon.

Only the City of Tonawanda side closes at 10pm

8. WHAT SPECIAL EVENTS ARE THERE AT CANAL FEST ?

Every day is highlighted with a special event. Check the [HIGHLIGHTS page](#) on the Canal Fest web site.

9. HOW DO I GET AN APPLICATION or INFORMATION TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THE CANAL FEST EVENTS?

Go to the [HIGHLIGHTS-printable forms page](#) to find rules, regulations, information and applications on many of the events.

APPLICATIONS and/or REGISTRATION is needed for:

• Scholarships • Golf Tournament • Canal Fest Pageant • Chalk-It-Up Street Chalk Art Contest • Canal Fest Parade • Diaper Derby • 4 Mile Run • Arts and Crafts Show • Historical Society Flea Market • Sika Cup Challenge Boat Building Contest

INFORMATION Available for

• Car Cruise • Bike Cruise • Duck Race

10. WHO IS PERFORMING AT CANAL FEST ?

[CLICK HERE](#) for a schedule of music performers.

11. ARE CAMERAS ALLOWED AT THE MUSIC VENUES?

Yes, as long as they are not professional cameras with a telephoto lens. Video recording equipment is not allowed.

12. WHAT FAMILY EVENTS WILL BE AT CANAL FEST ?

See the complete event schedule on our [Daily Event Schedule](#) for Canal Fest page.

13. WHEN ARE THE RIDES OPEN, AND WHAT TIME TO THEY CLOSE?

Powers Great American Midways provides the best rides and games for Canal Fest and is sponsored by the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier. Hit the midway for lots of fun every day of Canal Fest. There is always something new.

Opening Sunday – Games only

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri - 5pm to 10pm

Wednesday - 1pm to 10pm

Saturday - 1pm to 10pm

Closing Sunday - 1pm to 10pm

Pay-One-Price to ride the rides are now **ALL DAY, EVERY DAY** at the times above.

\$2 off coupons are available at the Canal Fest corporate tent at Sweeney St near Webster.

16. ARE THERE ATM MACHINES AVAILABLE ?

Yes. Go to <http://www.canalfest.org/cftvendormap.pdf> to locate the ATM machines located on both sides of the canal.

17. CANADIAN MONEY EXCHANGE? Yes, at Citizens Bank on Main and Adam Streets in Tonawanda and First Niagara Bank located at 100 River Rd in North Tonawanda during normal business hours.

18. IS THERE A CANAL FEST INFORMATION TENT?

Yes. An information tent is located on each side of the canal. The main Canal Fest Corporate (and souvenir) tent is located on Sweeney Street near Webster in North Tonawanda. The second informational tent is located at Main and Niagara Streets on the City of Tonawanda side at the Carousel Society tent. Both locations provide information on all aspects of the festival and surrounding Twin Cities area. You can also call 716 692-3292 or email party@canalfest.org at any time.

[CLICK HERE](#) for event booth locations.

19. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE GETS LOST ?

Lost persons will be brought to one of the 2 information tents. The main Lost & Found location is the Canal Fest Corporate tent located on Sweeney Street near Webster in North Tonawanda. The second is located at Main and Niagara Streets on the Tonawanda side at the Carousel Society tent.

20. WHERE DO YOU FIND FIRST AID ?

The main First Aid facility is located on Sweeney Street near Webster next to the Canal Fest Corporate (and souvenir) tent. Those in need of medical attention may just walk into this location. If you are in need of medical attention and are unable to get to this location call or have someone call 911, the paramedics will be dispatched to your location with a fully equipped golf cart to handle your emergency.

First Aid is manned by Paramedics from both City of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda during these hours;

Opening Sunday - Noon to 11pm

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri - 5pm to 11pm

Wednesday - 1pm to 11pm

Saturday - 1pm to 11pm

Closing Sunday - 1pm to 10pm

Twin City Ambulance is also on site during these hours for assistance and transportation if necessary.

21. ARE COOLERS/CHAIRS ALLOWED on the CAMPUS AREA of CANAL FEST?

Although not recommended, we have never stopped anyone from bringing them in. If you do bring chairs, please keep them out of the traffic pattern of others attending.

22. WHAT IS NOT ALLOWED on the CAMPUS AREA of CANAL FEST?

- Pets/Animals of any kind.
- Riding of bicycles, skate boards, roller blades or skates. This will be strictly enforced for the safety of all.
- Disruptive behavior, persons causing a nuisance, or foul language.
- Please stop when you are asked or the local police on site will take care of the situation at their discretion. Canal Fest should be a fun experience for all those attending.
- Glass bottles are not allowed in the event area for safety concerns. Alcohol is never allowed in the streets or general area inside the event except for the designated area in the beer tent.

23. HOW CAN I GET A BOOTH FOR MY BUSINESS TO SELL FOOD AT CANAL FEST?

Unfortunately you can't. Canal Fest is primarily for the civic/non-profit organizations in the Twin Cities and near surrounding areas that have become a member organization of the Canal Fest of the Tonawanda's, Inc. At this time we do not allow outside commercial vendors

24. HOW CAN I GET VENDOR SPACE TO SELL MERCHANDISE OR DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION?

Commercial vendor space is available only through monetary sponsorship of which many levels are available. Please email party@canalfest.org for sponsor opportunities.

25. HOW CAN I GET MY BAND BOOKED TO PLAY AT CANAL FEST?

To be considered, please email only your desire to perform to party@canalfest.org. Include any web site addresses or promotional material to showcase yourself or your band.

Promotional material may also be mailed to:

Canal Fest of the Tonawanda's Inc

P.O Box 1243

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

ATTN: Music Performance Committee

Currently we have 4 venues used for music/artistic performances that talent is needed for on most of the 8 days Canal Fest runs. Venues include the Main Stage on Sweeney Street in North Tonawanda. The food court area, Overlook Point and the Long Homestead are located in Tonawanda. Additional event wide stationary/roving street performers are also needed.

Performance submissions will be considered by email only. No phone calls will be considered. The committee will look at past and current submissions and put together the best schedule they possibly can. With the hundreds of requests we receive, you will only be notified if chosen. Live audio/video performances are desired over studio recordings. We will go see a band in a live setting when being considered if they have a studio recording only. Please make sure your gig schedule is current on all submissions. Music is used to help draw people to the event so at times we are pretty critical on our choices.

Keep in mind that you can perform any original music you may have, but please try and maintain 70% cover and 30% original with no more than 2 original songs at any one time. Unfortunately for some, Canal Fest is not an original music crowd. If you break the pattern,

the crowd will move along to something else. You are primarily dealing with a 30's to 50's demographic.

Canal Fest has also requested that a performer/band playing our event not to schedule other venues within a 2 mile radius 2 weeks prior and 1 week after the event. Those doing so may jeopardize being asked to play our event in the future.

* Performances at the Long Homestead are handled directly by the Historical Society of the Tonawanda's.

26. ARE THERE JOBS AVAILABLE AT CANAL FEST ?

Canal Fest does not offer any paying job position(s) for the event. All event labor is provided by volunteers from the civic/non-profit organizations that participate at Canal Fest. Canal Fest of the Tonawanda's Inc. does not hire for any of the commercial (non-organizational member) food vendors or rides operators/attendants, therefore we have no food or ride concession jobs available. If you are interested in a job with a concessionaire, you must apply with the concessionaires directly.

27. WILL THE SOUVENIRS BE MADE DOWN IN PRICE THE LAST DAY OF CANAL FEST?

No. Any leftover dated inventory is donated to a charity. In recent years, Jammies for GI's, an organization started by a City of Tonawanda Mother of a wounded GI, has been the recipient. Canal Fest Shirts are sent overseas to military hospitals and distributed to the wounded U.S. soldiers who when brought in, have nothing but the cloths on their backs.

28. IS CANAL FEST AFFILIATED WITH EITHER CITY OR COUNTY?

No, we are not. Canal Fest of the Tonawanda's Inc. is a Not-for-Profit, 501 c3 business and corporation in the State of New York. Canal Fest does negotiate and pay yearly reimbursement fees to both cities for hosting the event on city streets. On occasion, grant money is awarded to Canal Fest from Erie and Niagara Counties. Funds are generated through sponsor donations and member event percentages.

29. WHAT TIME ARE THE FIREWORKS?

They will begin when the streetlights come on and your Mother calls you to come home. We shoot the display upfront and personal right on the Renaissance Bridge.