

Bach Music Festival of Canada  
Municipality Report  
July 2017

From July 6 through the 16, the 4<sup>th</sup> Bi-annual Bach Music Festival of Canada resided at the South Huron Recreation Centre.

The Festival Youth Program held daily camp functions for over 30 Youth from the South Huron region, focusing on an arts and cultural immersion program. This year, extra focus was placed on the 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Canada. This provided an extended thematic exploration of the unique diversity of Canada interspersing both official languages as well as First Nations stories. Led by community arts leaders and volunteers, the intensive program ended with a final production showcasing the learning, talents and skills of the children.

This type of youth program, unique to Exeter and South Huron, provides the young participants a creative outlet, understanding of each other's differences, enhanced community spirit and engagement.

The Mass Choir and Orchestra rehearsals and performances were held at the South Huron Recreation Centre. Over 150 participants met daily for 3 hour rehearsals. This program, entitled 'Our Home & Native Land' was the final Gala celebration of the Festival weeks and Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>. Led by Artistic Director Gerald Fagan, the final performance which was held in the arena on a custom made stage, boasted over 400 audience members from the South Huron region as well as Southwestern Ontario. They gathered to celebrate the music, arts, history, and combined cultures of the many backgrounds that make Canada extraordinary.

Numerous volunteers assisted to make the rehearsals and final concert a success. The concert ended with a party in the Recreation Centre Hall, with Canada Themed cake. Numerous dignitaries were on hand to commemorate the event, as well as service organizations and officers in their formal attire.

The pride in country and community was evident as the audience gave a resounding standing ovation for the performers, with special attention to the Canadian composers commissioned to compose pieces specifically for this performance, who were in attendance.

Best Regards,  
The Bach Music Festival of Canada