



With the **2012 Ontario Welsh Festival** we begin an exciting new journey into our next 50 years of OGGA history. Building on the success of last year's 50th anniversary event, we invite you to join our celebration of all things Welsh on the weekend of April 27-29, 2012 at the Marriott Gateway hotel in Niagara Falls.

What can you expect at this year's Festival?

- Be delighted on Saturday night by the excellent **Côr Cwmni Da**, our featured choir from Pembrokeshire under the baton of Marilyn Lewis. Then on Sunday, Marilyn along with Alan Thomas, as accompanist, will lead us at our **Gymanfa Ganu** sessions, the musical heart of our weekend.
- Be a part of the evening's entertainment at our annual Friday evening **Noson Lawen** (or provide your hearty encouragement from the audience).
- Be charmed by an exceptional children's performance as Hefina Phillips is back in harness leading the session following on the outstanding success of last year's **Awr y Plant**.
- Be a witness to the presentation of the second annual **Gold Award** at the Banquet.

See your registration brochure for the many activities that are being planned for your enjoyment. Regular updates about the Festival weekend can also be found on our website at ontariowelshfestival.ca.

Balancing the finances of our organization and keeping the Festival viable is always one of the challenges faced by your Board. At the Marriott, the Board is required to guarantee the hotel payment for a minimum number of room nights as well as attendees for the Banquet (which is charged to you at cost). Please mention the Ontario Welsh Festival when you book your hotel room and provide additional support by attending the Saturday evening Banquet. These actions also help keep the Festival registration fee at its low price.

Fundraising is another way we help keep our books balanced and the Board is excited to announce a **Welsh Pub Night and Auction** at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church in Toronto on Saturday, March 24th. Under the leadership of Donna Morris, you are guaranteed an entertaining evening while supporting your Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association. Donations of auction items can be directed to Donna at donnamorris2010@hotmail.com. We are also soliciting advertisements for our Festival Program booklet. Your support of this initiative would be appreciated. Please contact me at president@ontariowelshfestival.ca.

Finally, at this year's **Annual General Meeting**, we especially welcome your input on a change we are considering to the 2013 Sunday Gymanfa Ganu sessions. Because of the decrease in attendance at the afternoon session, some members have suggested having one longer Gymanfa Ganu session on Sunday morning instead of the traditional two sessions. What do you think? Please make your views known to us at this year's AGM. As this would be a change in our constitution, this will serve as notice of the intent for such discussion at our meeting.

Our membership is the strength of our organization. Through your support the Festival will flourish. Mark the April 27-29 weekend on your calendar now. The celebration will not be the same without you!

Hwyl,

Betty Cullingworth
President / Llywydd