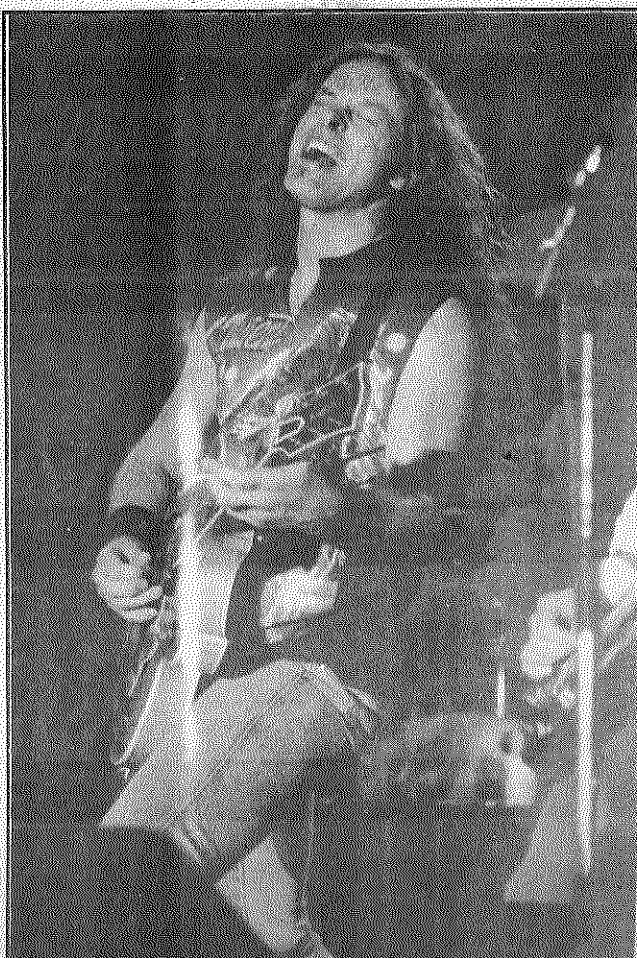


FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL '95

Wasn't that a party!



Bad Company had the place rocking Thursday as one part of the four-band rock night at Mather Arch. Thursday's crowd was bigger than Wednesday's country night crowd, but much smaller than the horde that invaded Fort Erie for Saturday's and Sunday's alternative rock days.



Motor City Madman Ted Nugent closed out rock night Thursday with his high-energy, guitar-screaming, speaker-blowing brand of rock and roll. Nugent closed out a night that featured Chris Duarte, Bad Company, and Canadian rocker Kim Mitchell.



Canadian rock fans were thrilled to hear from the one of the country's rock legends, Kim Mitchell, Thursday night. Mitchell did not disappoint, playing old favourites such as Go For A Soda, I Am A Wild Party, Rockland Wonderland, and Patio Lanterns.



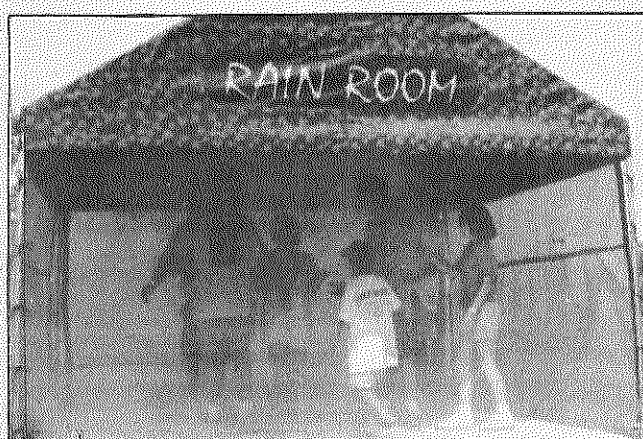
10,000 Canadian and American music fans were treated to tunes of nine bands Saturday starting at noon capped off after the Jaycees fireworks by Canada's Barenaked Ladies. Lead singer Steve Page belted out favourites like If I Had A Million Dollars, belted right back with boxed and loose Kraft dinner on queue. "Hey, most of these are from Tops! There's only one official Kraft dinner up here!" The concert closed with the masses singing O Canada.

Festival huge success

Continued from front

Sunday's \$30,000 Friendship Festival Grand Prix rounded out five days of equestrian action at the West End Recreation Centre in Ridgeway. Organizers Buster and Marilyn McAfee, along with the Fort Erie Bridle and Saddle Club, put on another first-class show. Six of the 23 horse and rider entries enjoyed a fault-free first round at the Grand Prix, but only Chris Pratt of Guelph Ont., and his mount Las Vegas, made it through the jump-off without knocking down any fences to win first place.

Other festival favourites such as the car show, arts and crafts show, theatre, dancing, clowns, magicians, hot air balloons, storytellers, rides, food, and fun made the 1995 festival one for the books.



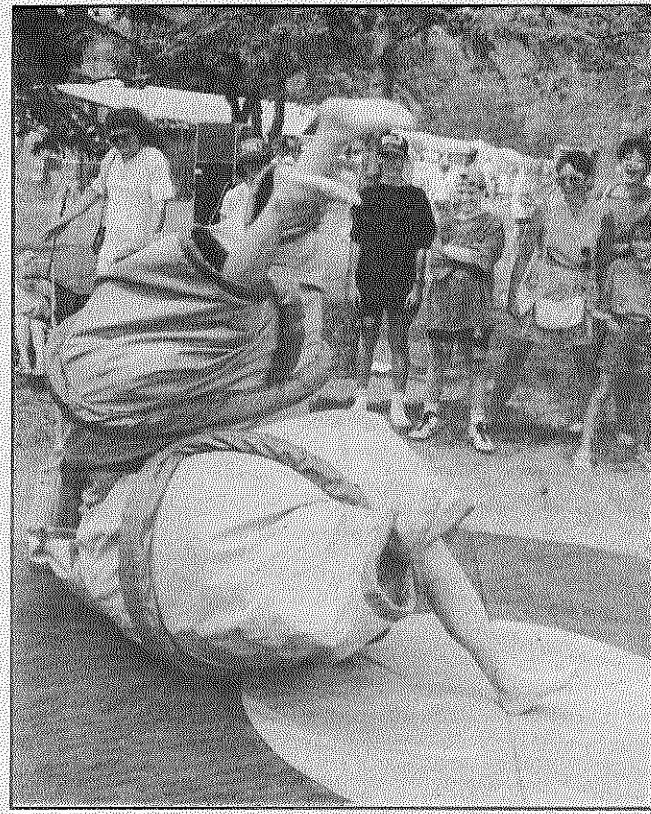
Chris Pratt rides Las Vegas up and over and all clear for the win in the Friendship Festival Horse Show \$30,000 Grand Prix on the grounds around West End Arena in Ridgeway. Always a gorgeous display of horsemanship and team effort, the horse show draws crowds from across Ontario and western New York.



Liam MacDonald of London, Ont. demonstrated Flower Sticks for passersby the arts and crafts displays. The object of the game is to keep one stick moving, by prodding, poking, and hitting it with the other two. The basics can be learned with about one hour of practice, he said, but there are always more to learn, and create.



The Fort Erie Jaycees' traditional Canada Day fireworks display attracted thousands of festival goers to the edge of the Niagara River Saturday night.



Dressed in inflatable sumo suits, visitors to the interactive sports area got to throw each other around in relative safety. In addition to the wrestling, kids and adults enjoyed inflatable boxing, jousting, and it was all free.

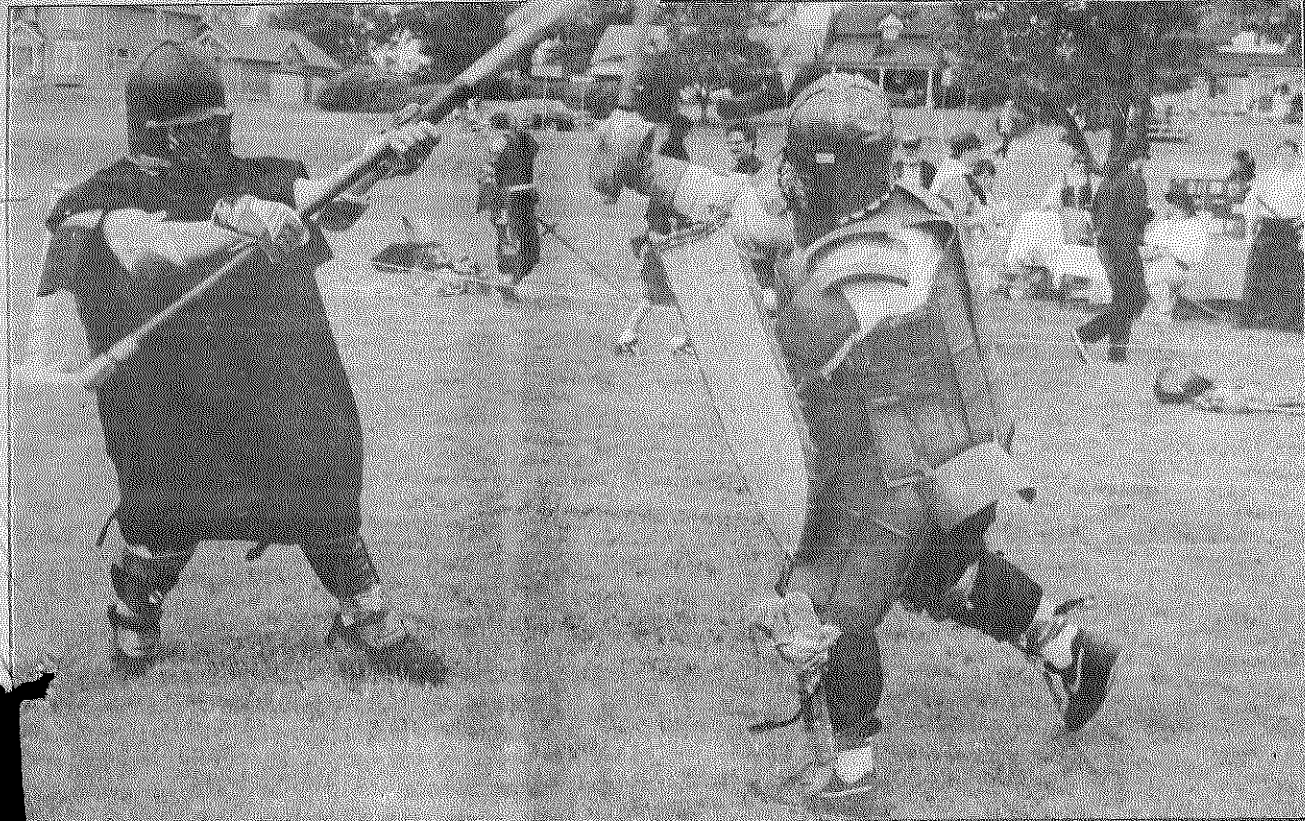
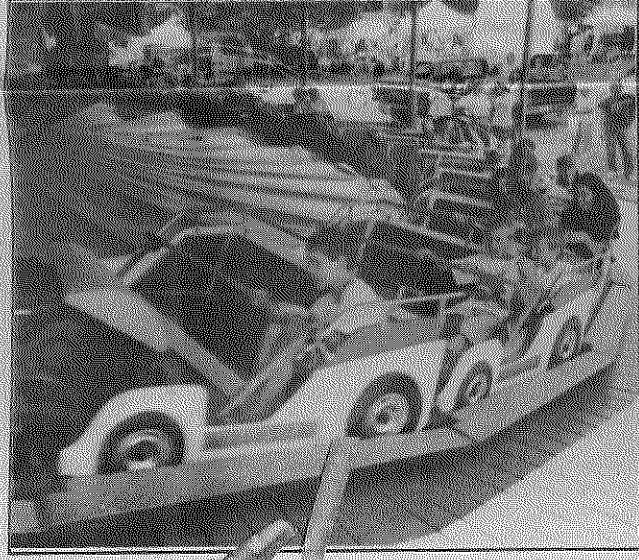


DooDoo the clown was host at the children's stage on Canada Day Saturday, cracking jokes, making balloon hats and animals, and introducing entertainers like juggler Craig Douglas, Markus, and Magic Mike.



Balloons launched at 7 a.m. Sunday for a bird's eye view over the fort and festival grounds until wind swirled forcing the beauties earthbound again.

The Polar Express was a popular choice for those enjoying Robertson Amusement's midway. For the less daring, there were 14 other rides to choose from including old favourites like the ferris wheel and the dragon wagon.



Members of the international Society for Creative Anachronism donned suits of mail for Medieval Days demos.



You've seen it on American Gladiator's where it's known as The Joust. But on the weekend, anyone could try to stay on a wobbly platform and slug it out with pugil sticks in Knock 'Em Off, one of three inflatable games in the interactive sports area.



Mike Robinson TIMES-REVIEW

At Friendship Festival Sunday's alternative rock concert, "body surfing" and "moshing" were the order of the day. In spite of it all, there were a minimum of injuries ranging from scratches and bruises to the occasional dislocated shoulder. Saturday and Sunday concerts attracted more than 10,000 fans for each event on the Mather Arch stage. More festival coverage on pages 8, 9, 10

Half-million come to our place to party

**Mike Robinson
Times-Review**

The final numbers are not in yet, but it's pretty safe to say the 1995 Friendship Festival was one of the most successful in the nine-year history of the cross-border bash. Festival president Dave Sevcik figures more than half a million people visited Fort Erie during the past week, shattering previous attendance records.

The festival will make money this year, he said.

And the talent at Mather Arch's concert stage was the best ever, thanks to a wise decision to farm out that venue.

Buffalo-based ICONcerts used its experience and connections in booking the many outstanding bands, handling security and, perhaps most important, taking on the financial risk. But the risk paid off and promoters say Saturday and Sunday's concerts, each attended by more than 10,000 fans, put the deal in the black.

And the festival kept its pledge of "something for everyone." The POG tournaments were probably the most popular kids' event.

Groups of 32 started out at 16 tables with the "non-advancers" being eliminated until there were only two players to battle it out in the grand slam championship. Winners received a personalized "kini slammer" with their picture on it, and the non-advancers kept the "classic POG" used in the elimination rounds.

The interactive sports area was filled with happy kids of all ages. Montreal-based Airbounce Amusements brought sumo wrestling, jousting, and big-glove boxing to the festival, and smiles to thousands of faces.

Also new to the festival was the Medieval Anachronism. Members of the Society for Creative Anachronism offered festival visitors a look back to the time of kings, queens, barons, knights, ladies, and peasants.