

Whirligig festival moves to September in Shelburne

By BRIAN MEDEL

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SHELBURNE The eighth annual Shelburne County Whirligig & Weathervane Festival moves to September to become a standalone festival.

Previously the festival has been held each summer, during the town's Founders Day celebration.

"We just decided that this is a unique thing and we can have a unique festival in Nova Scotia," said Wayne Blinkhorn, festival co-chair.

The 2007 event will include an expanded program featuring two whirligig making workshops by Milford Buchanan.

The workshops will be similar to some successful whirligig making classes held at Shelburne Regional High School, Blinkhorn said Friday at the festival's launch.

This year's workshops are limited to 12 people per class and a \$25 fee will cover all construction materials.

Additional public whirligig classes are planned for the fall at the local high school.

Blinkhorn says the festival now has a website www.whirligigfestival.com.

"You can register for the festival. You can register for the workshops," he said about the website.

The festival will be held over a weekend on the historic Shelburne waterfront, Sept. 22 and 23.

A new festival mascot, Bruce the Moose, will feature prominently as well. The giant moose whirligig was designed and built by Dale Clark of nearby Jordan Falls.

Prizes this year include a \$500 cash award for the best in show winner and another 15 prizes



Dale Clark of Jordan Falls made this whirligig known as Bruce the Moose. It is the new mascot of the annual Whirligig & Weathervane Festival to be held Sept. 22 and 23 on the Shelburne waterfront. (brian medel / Yarmouth Bureau)

in cash or merchandise.

There's a separate category for first-time builders, as well as one for youth entries.

The public vote for a People's Choice, award.

"Our hope is to get new faces involved," said co-chair Herschel Specter.

"What is essential is that people realize that there are categories and prizes for whirligig makers of all skill levels," he said.

There's never any charge for registration or participation in the festival.

Other winners are selected by an independent panel of judges.

Prizes awarded by the judges will go to displayed entries that have not won a prize if exhibited in a previous festival, says pre-registration information.

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