

Vermont Renaissance Festival  
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Hear Ye, Hear Ye, and be wary for Pirates! Scurrilous sea-dogs have seized the Vermont Renaissance Festival and fled to points south. Thus, VTRF announces the opening of “**Pirates of the Renaissance**,” to be held at The Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield, MA, on July 1-2<sup>nd</sup>, 8-9<sup>th</sup> & 15-16<sup>th</sup>, 2006

The Festival is a lush and talent filled re-creation of an English village festival in the 1580s. An exciting, diverse and family-friendly event, this festival continues to grow and bring more commerce to area and local merchants. The festival’s growing patronage, exceeding 8,000 people last year, has caused the Vermont Renaissance Festival to relocate half an hour south across the state line into Massachusetts. Ann Weinstein, General Manager of the festival said, “We are sorry to be leaving Guilford, since it’s about ten minutes away from where we are preparing our permanent site in Vermont. On the other hand, the people of Greenfield have been very welcoming and we look forward to several happy years here in Massachusetts.” This local, family-owned faire expects this year, the festival’s sixth season, to see in excess of 12,000 patrons in attendance.

“We strive to be the most historically authentic Renaissance Faire, while keeping all of the fun,” says Ann. Throughout the day there will be a diverse selection of entertainments including performances by local and regional individuals and groups such as Guy Todd - skilled harpist, The Great Scott Magical Show, The Great Unwashed Mud Show, and many others, not the least of which is VTRF’s own veteran troupe of actors who bring this Renaissance village to life. Extensive training in history, dialect, swordplay and interactive theatre help create an immersive atmosphere. “From the time you pass through the gates until the last crash of steel at the end of the final Joust, our goal is to have our patrons step into the 16<sup>th</sup> century.”

The craft village at the festival features over 40 artisans, including purveyors of handmade jewelry and chainmail, pewter and iron ware, glass and leather items, children’s wooden swords, shields and other toys, and clothing and accessories for all the Lords and Ladies. Many of these merchants will be giving demonstrations of their art, such as the blacksmith’s workshop. The food offerings include hearty meals, authentic and modern drinks, and tasty snacks for young and old alike.

Each weekend features Special Performances by well known international acts: **Shay’s Rebellion** – amazing Celtic musicians, (July 1-2<sup>nd</sup>), “**Fire and Steel**” with **Philip DePalo** – renowned sword swallower and fire breather (July 8-9<sup>th</sup>), and **le’Ensemble Cercamon** – high-energy Renaissance minstrels extraordinaire (July 15-16<sup>th</sup>).

All three weekends, Jousting and Armored Combat performances by **Paragon Jousting** crown a day of music and merriment. The shows include fully armored knights, both upon horseback competing in a joust tournament and in combat on foot. **King Edward III’s Royal Artillery and Siege Engineers** demonstrate the history and use of large, dangerous weapons of war in the Renaissance, most significantly cannons and handgonnes. Warning: Black powder weapons will be fired.

Free parking adjacent to the site at the Fairgrounds. **Very near Exit 26 off I-91.** Day / Weekend Pass prices: Adults - \$12 / \$18, Children (5-13) -\$6 / \$9, babes in arms are free; no pets please. Weekend passes are good any two faire days, not necessarily the same weekend. Tickets are also available for sale on the website ([www.VermontFestival.com](http://www.VermontFestival.com)). Hours are Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5PM on July 1-2<sup>nd</sup>, 8-9<sup>th</sup> & 15-16<sup>th</sup>, 2006, rain or shine.