



THERE ARE NO TWO HOMELANDS

EVENT: FESTIVAL “THERE ARE NO TWO HOMELANDS IN ONUŠKIS

DATE: FROM 4TH TO 6TH OF JULY

LOCATION: ONUŠKIS

For a long time, homeland for a Lithuanian isn't just a fancy word, one also adds the main values to it, which were embedded by the family and society: love for the country, the struggle for freedom, the pursuit of the nation's well-being, communion and many other important things. The annual festival in Onuškis, located in Aukštadvaris Regional Park and dedicated to commemorating the Statehood Day, re-

minds both locals and visitors of these values, which haven't faded over the centuries.

Every Onuškis resident, neighboring eldership dweller and everyone who has been to or heard about this fun festival –“There are no two homelands –” is waiting for it. It's an opportunity not only to meet and communicate pleasantly but also to watch bands performing on the stage decorated with colors of the Lithuanian national flag. A celebration is dedicated to commemorating the Statehood (the coronation of King Mindaugas of Lithuania) Day, which focal point is the homeland, Lithuania and man. The festival allows each of us to go back in time and witness the Grand Duke of Lithuania, later, the

King of Lithuania Mindaugas taking a step towards the international recognition of the Lithuanian state in Europe. In 1251, after Mindaugas accepted his baptism, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was declared the Catholic Kingdom of Lithuania in a bull written by the Pope Innocent IV in Milan. He was crowned the first and only king of Lithuania on the 6th of July, 1253.

A diverse concert and sports program awaits those who come to the festival during the day. There are traditional jogging around Lake Onuškis, basketball, tricycle and bicycle tournaments happening, during which both adults and children try their luck. The winners of sports competitions are awarded with prizes and medals. The evening event receives special attention with raising the Lithuanian flag marking the beginning of it. Bands and individual performers create an extraordinary atmosphere with their



music and allow the listener to feel the true spirit of the festival.

As the people of Onuškis put it, there are no two homelands, therefore it's important for every one of us to return to our own homeland at least once a year. Homeland is a part of our essence, which is one and only.

