

# The Barn Dance Opera Country Music Journal

Vol. 20 1999

Winter Edition

1

## Katie Roth - A Winning Smile, A Winning Voice

by Grant Heywood

Sometimes you can spot a winner, right from the beginning. Twelve year old Katie Roth from Tavistock, Ontario has certainly gotten a head start.

In 1991, at five years of age, Katie took first place at a singing competition in Stratford. Four years later, in 1995, she swept first place in competitions in Stratford, Simcoe and the C.N.E. in Toronto.

Katie lists Shania Twain and Reba McEntire as her singing idols. In fact it was Reba's song, "Why Haven't I Heard From You" that Katie sang when she won competitions in 1995. "That's the song people request most often," says Katie.

It's not hard to believe that she's been singing since age four. And without vocal training, except maybe the school choir of late. Just listening to her voice,

you know she's a natural. "I've always wanted to be a singer," says Katie. Sometimes her dad will play her first tape recording when she was four years old, singing "I Fall To Pieces". It's a sentimental reminder of his daughter's gifted voice and where it all started.

Although no one else sings in her family, her grandma plays mandolin, and her dad plays guitar. Needless to say, her mom, Barbara and her dad, Murray are the support team behind her career ambitions. Katie has a younger brother, Mitch and an older sister, Lindsay who stepdances. Their pet dog, Misty, doesn't perform, at least not yet.

Besides singing, Katie likes biking and swimming, or just hangin' out with her friends in Tavistock. And she has a lot of friends. Boyfriends? she didn't say.

Performing is what Katie does best,

she was definitely a highlight at a couple of last years Barn Dances. She just gets right up on stage and belts out a great country song. Stage fright has never really been an issue for Katie. "As long as there's an audience that will listen, I'll be singing," she says.

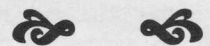
Katie knows the power a voice can have in putting across a song. One day during school recess, a friend from grade 8 asked her to sing the Trisha Yearwood / Leann Rimes song, "How Do I Live". As Katie put it,

"My friend just started crying when I sang that song."

It was another emotional moment, when her family took a tour of Nashville and the Grand Ole Opry. The tour group formed a circle on the Opry stage, while Katie stood in the middle and sang acappella. What a thrill!

In fact, Katie says her greatest wish is to sing and record in Nashville, some day. But her dad says there's lots of time for dreams and wishes, wherever they may lead.

Katie Roth will be making a guest appearance at one of the upcoming Barn Dances in 1999. Don't miss it!! She is definitely one of Canada's youngest rising stars, well worth catching.



### RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL QUILT DRAW

The fourth annual quilt draw, sponsored by The Barn Dance Historical Society, based in Wingham, Ontario, was broadcast over CKNX AM 920 Radio on Nov. 18 at 12:05 p.m., noon. The draw was conducted under the supervision of the Society's Honourary President, Earl Heywood of Wingham, Ontario.

Bonnie Holiday of CKNX Radio was on hand for the draw, as was announcer John Chippa who drew the winning ticket. The lucky winner of the queen size double wedding ring quilt was Mrs. Clayton (Doris) Lotz of R.R.#2, Wellesley, Ont. Congratulations!

The Bluevale ladies are to be commended for their excellent craftsmanship in the making of this quilt and for others they have made in the past.

The Society extends appreciation to all who purchased tickets to support development of the Barn Dance Historical Society projects. Another quilt is in the making for 1999, we'll have it on display at any upcoming Barn Dances and at the International Plowing Match in Dashwood on Sept. 21 to 25, 1999. See you there.



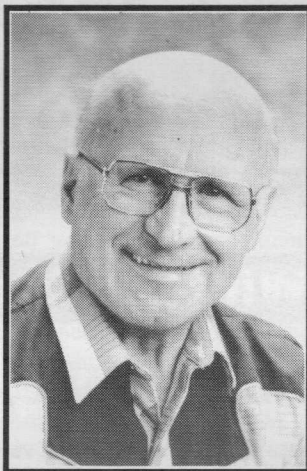
## The Editor Speaks

This issue marks the start of my second year as editor of the newsletter. It's truly been a year of joys and frustrations, a year marked with many ups and a few downs. I feel we've pretty well accomplished what we set out to do and that was to turn the newsletter into a keeper, as opposed to a throw away. We've had many compliments on the direction we've gone and actually I hope it's only the start. We put the newsletter back on track, only to have our membership committee fall apart (it's their responsibility to get it out in the mail). The problem was in the change-over to new people to look after it, and when it didn't work out we found we had to re-organize this phase of the operation. We're well into it now and hopefully will have it corrected by the mailing time for this issue. If there is still a problem in getting your issue, we would like to hear about it and correct the situation.

We're pleased to announce that Bill Oja, our intrepid fiddle events photographer has been nominated by the Ontario Country Music Association's 700+ members as "Industry Person of the Year". The awards banquet will be held at the Hamilton Convention centre on April 18, 1999. I'm sure you've enjoyed Bill's work in our newsletter since he's been part of our team.

On a sadder note, we were all saddened by the passing of Graham Townsend, even though we all knew about his valiant battle with the dreaded cancer. Graham's induction into the Canadian fiddler's Hall of Fame is documented elsewhere in this issue, as is his obituary. I would like to say a few words about Graham's funeral, which was a unusual as the man himself. Instead of the sad and somber atmosphere of many funerals, it was as Pastor John Howard said, "A Celebration of the life of Graham Townsend." Even the church itself wasn't the magnificent edifice with stained glass windows, but the "Church in the Warehouse". Officially the Bethel Community Church of Barrie, many of us drove past it without spotting it. It was a very informal service and at one time there were 19 fiddlers taking part, including some of the most famous fiddlers and musicians in Canada. Eulogies were delivered by Graham's son, Gray, and I'm sure it must have been the toughest job he's ever had to tackle, also by Paul Mills, a broadcaster and producer who worked with Graham in various recording sessions, and by Ken Palmer from the bluegrass band, The Dixie Flyers. After interment in the Barrie Union Cemetery (pallbearers were chosen from some of Graham's best fiddling friends) lunch and fellowship were served, which ended in a

by Lynn Russwurm



jam session which was still going on when I left at around 5:00 o'clock. I'm sure Graham had a smile on his face as he watched the goings-on and probably played along with every note that was played with pure delight.

**FLASH!!** After the above was written, word came in that Eleanor Townsend died tragically when fire engulfed their home in Barrie in the wee small hours of December 31. Apparently Eleanor had escaped, but when she realized her 5 year old grand daughter, Izabella was still inside, she futilely went back into the house where both she and the little girl perished. Gray managed to escape and is in hospital suffering from shock and trauma. A few days earlier Eleanor had attended the funeral of her own father in Port Colborne. What a tragic last month of 1998 was for this family of well-known Canadians.



## MEMBERSHIPS

*Important Changes, Be Sure to Read!!*

As of this issue, we will be making some changes in the membership structure. Up to this point membership has been in The Friendship Club, whereas from now on you will be a member of The Barn Dance Historical Society. Originally The Friendship Club was a necessity, which no longer holds true. In the beginning The Friendship Club was organized for people to join so they would have a place in the association while it was still in it's infancy. When The Barn Dance Historical Foundation, which was later changed to Barn Dance Historical Society was officially put into place the need for a Friendship Club dimished. Today it makes no sense at all as now everyone

## The Barn Dance Historical Society

P.O. Box 68

Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

Phone (519) 357-3021

Earl Heywood

*Founder, Honourary President, Advisor*

### Board of Directors 1998:

**President:** Wayne Otterbein

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**Secretary:** Shirley Russwurm

**Treasurer:** Lois Schistad

**Past President:** Len Love

### Directors:

Ron Coulthard, Hugh Elder,  
Grant Heywood, Gerry Boppre,  
Al Widmeyer, Earl Heywood.

should be a member of the Society, and have a closer and more meaningful place within the ranks. So, as of now you are members of the Barn Dance Historical Society and we hope you will feel that you are an integral part of all the aims and objectives which are out-lined in our constitution, and hopefully we can receive much more input from you, the members. Any suggestions or ideas we receive will be examined, of course we cannot implement all suggestions, but be assured they will be looked at. It will take some time to change everything over, but be patient and hopefully the transition will be smooth and satisfactory to all.

This year we are also offering a dual membership, whereby two people at the same address will be voting members, with all privileges, both will receive a membership certificate and a membership card, however you will only receive one copy of the newsletter. Price for a dual membership will be pegged at \$30.00 per year, you may join for as many years as you wish.

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## How Well Do You Know Your Barn Dance?

Well, this is the first time we've been able to give away a first and a second prize in our mystery artist contest. Joyce Steurnol from Wingham, Ontario was the first to identify Mary and Marion Seiler, "The Seiler Twins" who had an extended run on the Barn Dance as regulars in the early fifties. They were the twin daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Manny Seiler of Monkton, Ontario. After the girls gave up their singing career, Marion married fiddler Al Cherney. On "It's The Saturday Night Barn Dance, Vol. 2", we included a cut of The Seiler Twins which show cased their beautiful harmonies. If you don't have this CD / cassette, you're missing an important segment of the CKNX Barn Dance.

Second prize of a cassette and souvenir calendar went to Mrs. Marion Roberts of Listowel, Ontario. We would like to thank both of these ladies for submitting their entries. Response to this feature is still pretty poor, is it that you don't like the contest, or are we making it too hard for you?

This time around, we're moving into the 1956 - 57 era. This young lady was a regular on the Barn Dance and was a superb yodeller. Give us her name, and again the first entry will receive a Vol. 2 Barn Dance CD and a '97 souvenir calendar with over 35 Barn Dance pictures, second prize will again be a cassette and calendar.

Get your entries in early as prizes are for

first entries received.

Entries to:

**CONTEST,**  
C/O Lynn Russwurm,  
Box 63,  
Elmira, Ontario N3B 2Z5



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS -

**APRIL 11, 1999** - Barn Dance Historical Society Annual Meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion in Wingham in the lower level. Meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., at which time four new directors of the Society will be elected. We have a nomination committee who will contact prospective directors and will make recommendations, however if any of our members would like to stand, make sure you

## FROM THE STAGE

WAYNE OTTERBEIN, *Barn Dance Manager*

The Barn Dance Historical Society will again hold the Jamboree Camp-Out on May 28, 29 and 30, 1999 at Blyth. We will also be entertaining at The International Plowing Match at Dashwood, Ontario on Wed., Sept. 22, 1999.

Some dates for 1999 are not yet confirmed and there are still some dates available. I am extending the cut-off time for booking to February 1, 1999. This is changed from Dec. 31, 1998.

I would like to thank Ron Coulthard and Hugh Elder for their dedication and hard work over the past year, as both have stepped down from the Barn Dance Committee.

Also, thanks to everyone who took time to write me, giving their comments on the shows and dances. All your comments are always gladly received.

Thanks to all sound, lights, musicians, guests, video and photographer, and members who manned the souvenir tables and all people who supported us throughout 1998. 'Till next time.

are present, with a member who will nominate you. We would like to see many more members attend this meeting and bring along your input.

**MAY 28 - 29 - 30, 1999** - 2nd ANNUAL CAMPOUT JAMBOREE - Blyth Recreation Complex in Blyth, Ontario. Lots of camping available, an open Jamboree, a full scale Barn Dance on Saturday night, a Sunday morning Gospel Sing and many more activities, with discount rates for our members.

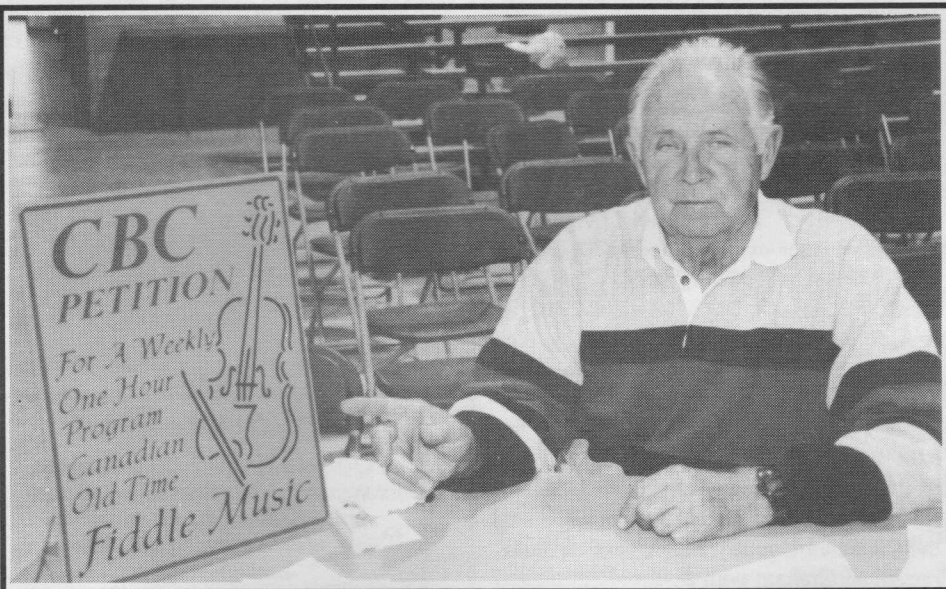
**SUNDAY, OCT. 3, 1999** - Annual Barn Dance Rally and Old Time Fiddlers Convention at the Royal Canadian Legion in Wingham. Begins at 10:00 a.m. with a seminar and workshops under the supervision of Ernie King. At 1:00 p.m. there will be an Old Time Fiddlers Concert, with various fiddlers giving samples of their specialties, don't miss this popular event. This will be followed by the Hayloft Hoedown and Dance Party. Admission to this full day of entertainment is a \$5.00 donation, with free admission for musicians and entertainers who register for the Hayloft Hoedown.

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# TOWNSENDMANIA - A Tribute to Graham Townsend

*(Editor's Note - Graham and Eleanor Townsend were the first inductees into the Canadian Fiddlers Hall of Fame on October 25, 1998 in Orangeville at the Agricultural Complex. And just a short 39 days later, Graham would succumb to the ravages of the cancer he had battled so valiantly for the last two years. Always cheerful, even into the last few days, he performed with his beloved fiddle until a few days before the end. An inspiring and courageous performer and human being. Following is a word picture of that day in Orangeville, by freelance writer, Al Yetman.)*

by Al Yetman

More than 500 recently paid a Tribute to Graham Townsend, as some of Canada's greatest fiddlers made it a success. MC Larry Stacey, with his anecdotes and polished introduction of each guest announced the arrival of Graham and Eleanor Townsend in the rumble seat of a 1934 Ford. They drove to the stage past an array of photographs of Graham taken with top celebrities including Don Messer, Tommy Hunter, and fellow musicians from the Grand Ole Opry and from around the world. A lifetime display of Townsend albums was supplied by Lynn Russwurm, record collector and a director of the Barn Dance Historical Society.

The backup band was composed of Phyllis McDowell on piano, Ken Ducharme on rhythm guitar and Charlie Steinhoff on bass. The melodious sounds of a Graham Townsend hornpipe were played by Mark Sullivan, Canada's new "Townsend" of tomorrow. The "Let The Show Begin" nod came from Willis McNeilly, President of Canadian Fiddlers and Step Dancers' Hall



Scott Woods at microphone, Charlie Steinhoff on bass.

of Fame who created this lavish event.

Young Lindsay and Tyler Beckett opened with St. Anne's Reel. Then Sandy MacIntyre with his sister Mary on the piano and John Alexander on guitar played some Cape Breton Celtic tunes. Sandy gave credit to Graham for having spread the gospel of old time fiddle music throughout the world. Then came Scott Woods who coupled his wit with stories about Eleanor Townsend.

Probably the most important tribute came from Graham's wife, Eleanor, who affectionately praised him as a good husband and a great father to their son, Gray. She told of his sense of humour, his positive and delightful attitude which helped them through their many trials and tribulations and he clung to his great love and passion for old time fiddling. Eleanor teared openly as she spoke of Graham's strong belief in God. After playing "The Banks of Newfoundland" in Celtic style, she continued with special dedications to Graham who had been given his own microphone to add his own one-liners. (In 1979, Eleanor had been the first woman to win the Canadian Open in Shelburne.)

Frank Leahy, recipient of Don Messer's fiddle, praised Graham as having been one of the very few musicians who managed to earn a living from music. Don Reed who performed on the Tommy Hunter show spoke of Graham visiting his home and eating his Mom's apple pie. Ed Gyurki, a seven time champion at Shelburne, did his rendition of Memory Waltz, amid an awesome silence in the audience. Ed referred to Graham as the "King of the Fiddle".

Rudy Meeks, four time winner of the Canadian Championship commented "in showing up for gigs, you could always depend on Graham to be there and to be dressed spiffy." The late Mel Lavigne was the first winner of the Canadian Open. His wife, May, recalled Mel getting young Graham on stage as a boy with Gordon Lightfoot, Johnny Mooring and Ned Landry. Nelson Hill and Bob Carruthers from the Shelburne Rotary Club, sponsors of the Shelburne Fiddle Contest, paid tribute to Graham and Eleanor who were basking in happy memories being relived.

Gary Buck, founder and president of the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame, presented Graham with an appreciation certificate. Murray Caulder, MP, gave a version of an old time jig, in which he danced all around the "issue". Phil Howes came on and said "when I started playing, Graham

said to slow it down and make it danceable". Eleanor taught Phil that a fiddle tune is simply "gems of musical thought". Gerry Smith said "Graham, a legend in his own time was already sounding like Don Messer at the age of 12". Cards and letters of good wishes poured in from across Canada from those who could only attend in spirit.

Bill Irving walked on stage and Graham said, "I hope you're not going to roast me", to which Bill replied, "Graham, I'd like to roast you over the biggest spit I could find." They recalled bits and pieces of stories and escapades from renting a new Lincoln which they smashed up outside of Calgary to plugging a jukebox in the Georgetown Legion with 50 quarters to promote their favourite song. Every story was speckled with beer and good natured humour. The audience loved it, they expected it, they got it. After playing "Beautiful Irene", a waltz which sent goosebumps up the spine, Bill began to leave the stage and almost as an afterthought, he stopped, turned toward Graham and said, "Graham, you are the greatest damn fiddler that ever lived, in my books anyway, and you sure helped me a lot."

Bobby Brown, pianist with the Cape Breton Symphony, recalled playing piano for Eleanor when she won the Canadian Open. He also recalled a tour of Ireland with Graham, after which he said, "Ireland would never be the same." He said, "Graham is the most natural fiddler in North America."

Young Mark Sullivan said it all: "Graham, it is a privilege, no, an honour to be playing with you." John Allan Cameron sang "Out on the Myra" and "Islanders" with his son Stewart and Tommy Ledbetter.

Eleanor's brother, Jim Reed and her sister, Jewel Eden spoke of Eleanor's proven ability as a child, to always take the aggressive lead, even in games, as Jewel played "second fiddle". She revealed that she is the real Jewel in the Jewel Waltz, as composed by Eleanor. On that "note" the

*Continued on Page 5*

## *Barn Dance Tapes*

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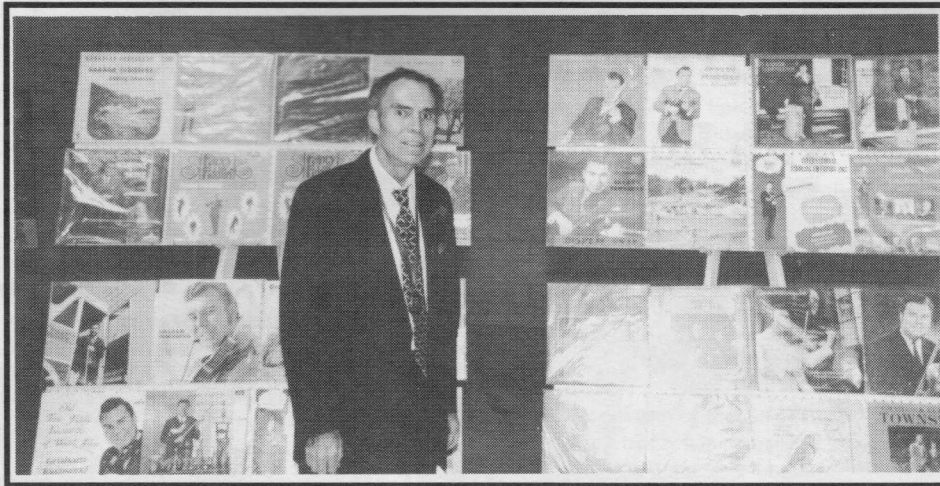
**Jimmie Rodgers**

**Victor Pasowisty - Forget-Me-Nots**

**You ng Mathew Johnson**

**LYNN RUSSWURM**

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Graham Townsend with display of his albums.

Continued from Page 4

sisters became too emotional to continue, as the tears flowed down their cheeks and brother Jim came to the rescue to finish up her tribute. They all hugged in family unison. A touching sight in a fraternity which we all sometimes refer to as "my extended family".

Then Graham, one of only three fiddlers who won three consecutive Canadian Championships, and Eleanor were both inducted into the Canadian Fiddlers and Step-dancers Hall of Fame, the first to be so honoured. The Grahams then played selected tunes to a standing ovation as their son Gray made the piano "sing".

Eleanor, in an admirable and tactful fashion responded lightly to the criticisms of her and Graham regarding the recent benefit shows produced by friends to raise

money for special medical treatment for Graham's terminal illness. Eleanor said, "I want only to forgive, not criticize". She then played "Into The Heart of The Mountains", a yet to be copy-righted dedication to Graham. Her tune touched the very innards of the spirit, especially when Graham struck up his bow in beautiful harmony on the last verse.

Following that, the walls and rafters shook as Canada's top fiddlers joined the Townsends on stage to play 13 non-stop jammin' tunes which started with St. Anne's Reel and ended with Maple Sugar and 1,000 swollen smarting hands.

A white stretch limo drove right up to the stage and whisked away the heroes as they disappeared through the doors to the wonderful sound of their own music.

What a day!! What a tribute to two of Canada's greatest gifts to the music world.



*Graham Townsend*

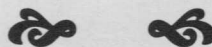
Canadian Fiddler and Composer Extraordinaire  
Four Time Canadian Fiddling Champion  
Inducted into The Canadian Fiddlers' Hall of Fame on October 25th, 1998.

*Eleanor Townsend*

Master Fiddler, Composer and Educator  
First Woman Canadian Fiddling Champion - 1979  
Inducted into The Canadian Fiddlers' Hall of Fame on October 25th, 1998.

Dated at Shelburne, Ontario  
this 25th day of October, 1998.

President *Willis G. McNeilly*  
WILLIS G. MCNEILLY



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**The President's Report**

by *Wayne Otterbein*

Christmas and New Years' will be past by the time you read this article in our newsletter. I hope each and every one of you will have had a very Merry Christmas and from the board of Directors, to everyone, the very best in the new year.

April 11, 1999 will be the date of our annual meeting held at the Wingham Legion. The Barn Dance Historical Society will again be looking for volunteers to help out at shows throughout the year, and of course, people to stand as directors. If you would like to give some time to the business part of the Barn Dance, please call our number, leave your name and we will be in touch with you.

Attending an annual meeting does not mean you will be forced into a job or position. We encourage all members to attend this meeting so you can see how the membership money is being used. This meeting can be a time when you can voice your opinions about the previous year and what you would like to see happen in the 1999 year. Please plan to attend.

Memberships are due in January. This year we are offering dual memberships. See more about this in the article on memberships.

Thank you all for a very successful 1998.

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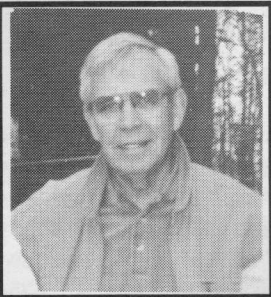
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# Just Fiddling Around . . .

with Bill Oja



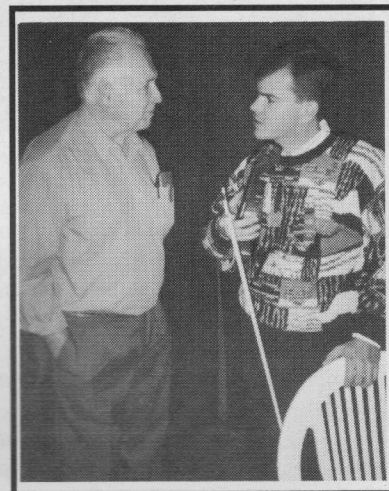
At one of the many CKNX Barn Dances in Ontario, going over the music are **LEN LOVE**, **LYNN RUSSWURM** and **LARRY MERCEY**.



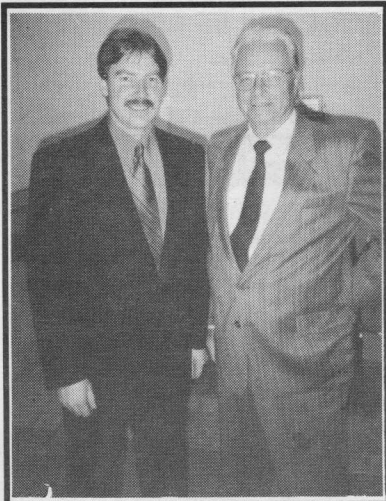
At the Hamilton Legion, Branch 58 are featured acts, singer **TERRY SUMMISON**, fiddler **RANDY MORRISON** with promoter **DOC JENKINS**.



The 1998 Royal Winter Fair saw the **JUNIOR SQUARE DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS** and here we have the University of Guelph OAC Boars with musicians **BOB & GINNY ARBUCKLE** and the band, with callers **DON FISHER**, **WAYNE LOWDEN** and **MURRAY FRASER**.



In heavy discussion at the "Royal" on Canadian fiddle music are historian / activist **GEORGE LINSEY** of Ennismore and one of Canada's top fiddlers, **SCOTT WOODS** of Fergus, Ontario.

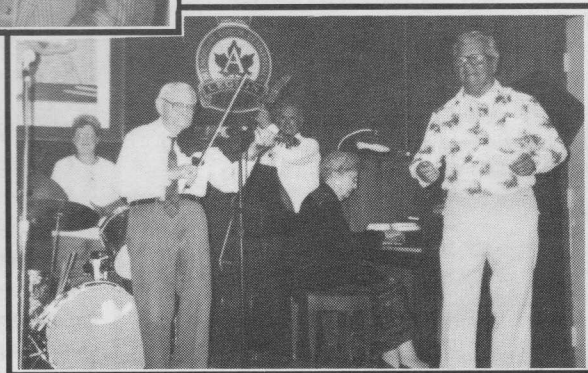


Seen at the 20th Central Canadian Bluegrass Awards are Mount Hope's **WAYNE FERGUSON**, 1998 Mandolinist winner (after winning the fiddle award for 5 years), with veteran CKAT North Bay broadcaster **JOHNNY SIZE**, who worked many stage and radio shows with the late Abbie Andrews.



Taking a respite at the Royal Fiddle Contest are country singer **KILEY JOE MASSON** of Princeton, contestant **RAY LaMARCHE** of Kirkfield. The shy one on the right is celtic fiddler and fiddle judge **PHIL HOWES** of Newmarket.

**ARCHIE MANN** still plays a mean fiddle at 90 years of age at the Wingham Legion. Helping out on stage are **MC JOHNNY BRENT**, **LYNN RUSSWURM** on bass, **CORA ROBERTSON** on piano and an unknown drummer.



## NEWS, NOTES 'N EVENTS

Michael T. Wall, "The Singing Newfoundlander" launched a special Christmas Album for the holiday season. The album is entitled CHRISTMAS MEMORIES, featuring Michael along with his two daughters, Sarah and Sabrina Wall. Over 24 Christmas songs are on the album, including their hit single, "Santa Is A Newfie", If you didn't get this recording on Down Home Records, drop a line to Michael T. Wall, at P. O. Box 715, Pickering, Ontario L1V 3T3 or Phone 1-800-JOE RADIO (563-7234).

The London Free Press quoted this special note on Tues., October 13, 1998. After an absence of more than a decade, the National Ballet Of Canada took Manhattan (New York City) by storm. The New York Press called the troupe one of the best ballet companies in the world, under the directorship of James Kodelka. Maybe it isn't country music, but it is Canadian and a valuable part of our art and culture here in Canada.

## IN MEMORIAM

**ISABEL LILLIAN WEBSTER (nee Turner)** of Trillium Villa, formerly of 241 Felix St., Sarnia passed away Sat., Oct. 31, 1998 at the Sarnia General Hospital. Isabel was one of the five Howard Sisters, also known as the Five Maids of Song who appeared on Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance in the hey days of the 1950's. She was predeceased by her husband, John Andrew Webster (Jack), infant son Mark Andrew and two sisters, Dorothy and Norma Marie who was also a member of the Howard Sisters act. Surviving members of the Five Maids Of Song are Laura, Doris and Jean and their families. Interment with a graveside service was in Lakeview Cemetery near Sarnia.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CYRIL "CY" DUFFES ROBINSON**, born in Goderich, Ont. on April 28, 1917, entered into rest on Mon., Nov. 4, 1998 in Tillsonburg, Ont. Cy lived in Wingham, Ont. at one time, and was the husband of the former Evva McIver, father and father-in-law of Ronald and Heather Robinson. Predeceased by three brothers Fred Jr., Ernie and Charles and one sister, Hazel O'Neil. The funeral service was

*On behalf of the members of the Barn Dance Historical Society, may our deepest sympathy go out to the families of those listed above, who were associated with our Foundation.*

Phil Main, who is known as a radio host on CKNX-FM is back with a new CD and cassette recording, "Love The Dark Away". Backing Phil on his voice tracks are drummer Manny Hussey; on saxophone Neil Murray; keyboards Scott Sebben; guitar Steve McMurray; mandolin Byron Ballagh; violin Scott Woods; guitar Larry (the Cucumber) McQuarrie and strong backup vocals by Abigail Benning and Paulette Lippert. The recording is available at Ernie King Music in Wingham and Goderich.

Lance Russwurm of the Barn Dance Band and an artist by trade, has completed his depiction of a Canadian Lancaster bomber from World War II on the side of K-W Surplus, on Victoria St. North, in Kitchener. He also has a mural in downtown Kitchener, on the side of the old Duthler Textiles store on Water Street, depicting the anniversary of Girl Guides in Canada. Other murals by Lance can be seen in Stratford, New Hamburg, Baden, Tavistock, etc.

**NOTE:** Artists wanting mention in this column, please forward your information to Earl Heywood, Box 443, Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

held under the auspices of the Royal Canadian Legion with a graveside service at the St. Peters' Roman Catholic Cemetery, near Goderich. Cy and Evva did so much in promoting the Barn Dance Historical Society on cable television in Tillsonburg, and Cy will be sadly missed.

\*\*\*\*\*

**GRAHAM CRAIG TOWNSEND** - one of Canada's outstanding fiddle players passed away at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie, Ont., on Thurs., Dec. 3, 1998. He was the beloved husband of Eleanor Townsend, and dear father of Graham (Gray) Frederick James Townsend of Barrie and Catherine Monti of Dungannon, Ont., with two grand daughters, Nadia and Izabella. Funeral Service was conducted by the Steckley-Gooderham Funeral Home in Barrie on Tuesday, Dec. 8, at the Bethel Community Church in Barrie, with interment at the Barrie Union Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. (More on Graham Townsend elsewhere in this issue.)

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## COUNTRY CALENDAR

(Toronto and surrounding area)  
by Doreen Brown

- \* For an afternoon of fun, bring your musical instruments for some old tyme country music, Caledon East Complex on Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 21 and April 18 at 12:30 p.m. Hot meal available and dancing. Everyone welcome, sponsored by the Caledon Agricultural Society.
- \* Oprey Orillia, with good old tyme country music by Chuck Moore has moved from the Sundial Restaurant to the Moose Lodge, 16 Rose Ave., Orillia (next to Econo Lodge). Next show is Jan. 16, Feb. 19, March 20, April 17, May 15 and June 19.
- \* Country Class, featuring Mary Rowan will be at the Tremont Hotel, Collingwood on Jan. 8 & 9. Then to the Warton Legion on Jan. 23, 1999.
- \* The Sentimental Journey, Baldwin, presents country music with a down-home flavour the third Sunday of the month with Blair Ravenhill, MC. All are welcome, bring your musical instruments.
- \* Cactus Pete's, 462 Birchmount, Scarboro, features Cadillac Ranch on Jan. 2 & 3, Art Legere on Jan. 8 & 9, Young Country on Jan. 15 & 16, Neon Moon on Jan. 22 & 23, Billy Kidd on Feb. 5 & 6, Robin Hawkins on Feb. 19 & 20..
- \* There will be a country music show at Legion Br. 286, Rexdale, on Jan. 30, featuring recording artist and old tyme fiddler Randy Morrison, also dancing.
- \* Camp Samac presents bluegrass, Pineridge on the third Sunday of each month, except July on Simcoe St. North, Oshawa. Bring your musical instruments, there's also dancing. For info, call Ray Winterstein at (905) 852-6119.
- \* Appearances by Doreen Brown are Jan. 8 Alton Legion; Jan. 10 at Chef Adams Maple Leaf Jamboree, Legion Br. 426, 707 Srigley St., Newmarket; Jan. 13 special guest with Country Express at Heritage Olde Tyme Fiddle & Dance, 38 LVIV Blvd., Oshawa; Jan. 30 Legion 286, Rexdale; Feb. 11 at the Uxbridge Legion; and March 20 at the Oprey Orillia, Moose Lodge.
- \* Sandy's Place, 1828 Weston Rd., Toronto (416) 248-4977, features Tony Prior on Jan. 7 - 10, Allen James from Jan. 14 - 17; and John Anthony from Jan. 28 to 31.
- \* Sandy MacIntyre will be appearing Jan. 15 at Fionn MacCools; Jan. 16 at Slainte in Hamilton; Jan. 22 at Montgomery Inn in Toronto; and every Sunday at the Bow & Arrow on Yonge Street in Toronto.
- \* Country music by the Brave Strangers featuring Bob Mills, appearing at the Canadian Legion in Sutton on Jan. 22 and at Misty River in Keswick on Jan. 23, 1999.
- \* Special condolences go out to Eleanor and Gray Townsend on the recent loss of world champion fiddler, Graham Townsend, husband and father. He will be sadly missed.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!**



Barn Dance" and internationally known as the longest lived radio show of its' kind in the history of Canadian music and broadcasting.

The manager of CKNX Radio has suggested we name the book "Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance" and include the words "A Souvenir Book of the Millenium Year 2000." It will contain more than 60 years of history, including the biographies of almost every artist who appeared on CKNX shows including the Barn Dance and various radio and television shows. It will be the greatest story ever told about this phenomenon. Hopefully a publisher may be found to commit the story to the printed page and introduce it by September 1999, in time for the International Plowing Match, to be held at Dashwood, Ontario from Sept. 21 - 25, 1999. I am happy to have David Wall, another writer and historian work with me in saving the Barn Dance story on computer.

Ever since this organization began, I have kept in close contact with my local members of Parliament. I am delighted that Paul Steckle of the Federal government and

Helen Johns of the Ontario government have requested the flags of the two government bodies adorn the stage at all of our live presentations. Likewise, our national and provincial flags will also be proudly displayed in our museum forever.

There are other major developments I am unable to announce at this time, however one of them is the Hall Of Fame and Museum. Since I was assigned the job of organizing some activity in connection with developing the museum, the first thing I need is volunteers who are willing to work with me on this project, just call (519) 357-2355. There are a number of things that can be done, so please contact me for details.

In the next issue of the Barn Dance Opera Journal, I will be talking about museums and Halls of Fame. In the meantime, let's keep moving forward and always remember,

**"THE SHOW MUST GO ON".**

Earl Heywood

#### HOWDY FOLKS:

Every time we celebrate New Year's Eve, we bid another year goodbye. As we bid farewell to 1998, we begin 1999, the final year of the Twentieth Century A.D., 1901 - 2000. Many organizations are already making arrangements to celebrate the Millenium in the year 2000.

In fact I began planning five years ago when I decided to tackle the giant undertaking of writing the story of the Life and Times of the late W. T. "Doc" Cruickshank, founder of CKNX Radio & Television. "Doc" was also founder of the CKNX Saturday Night Barn Dance, which became "Canada's Largest Travelling

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