

The Barn Dance Opera Journal

Official Publication of:
The Barn Dance Historical Society Inc.
and Entertainment Museum

Barn Dance Website: <http://www.barndance.on.ca>

Vol. 26 2000

Summer Edition

1

Barn Dance Group to receive \$60,000 in Trillium funding



ALL SMILES backstage at the Barn Dance at Bingeman's, upon receiving news about the \$60,000 Trillium Foundation grant for the Barn Dance Entertainment Museum. "This will certainly help the museum facility grow", says John Heaman (centre). "I guess there's still hope for me yet", says John jokingly. From L to R - Trillium Fund representative, Tharen Kramer, Barn Dance directors, John Heaman and Earl Heywood.

By Margaret Stapleton
Advance-Times Staff

Reprinted with permission as previously published in the Wingham Advance-Times, April 5, 2000.

If members of the Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum felt like celebrating last week, who could blame them? After all, the group just received notice that it has qualified for \$60,000 in Trillium Foundation funding.

Tharen Kramer, a spokesman for the foundation, confirmed last Friday that the board has accepted a recommendation of its local review team to grant \$60,000 to the Barn Dance society over the next three

years.

For Earl Heywood of Wingham and other members of the Barn Dance board, this was the best possible news and helps to put the wheels in motion for their long-range plans for an entertainment museum to showcase artifacts highlighting Wingham's musical heritage, especially the

travelling Barn Dance shows of the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

Billed as the "Radio and Television Town of Canada", Wingham indeed has a long history in the Canadian country music scene. A number of years ago, Heywood and a group of others got together and formed the Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum to endeavour to keep that history alive for future generations.

It has been a long process, but the grant will provide the society with money for operations and capital, including some staffing.

According to Kramer, who assisted the local group in putting

together its application, the capital funds will be used to showcase the "incredible number of artifacts and memorabilia", the society has in its collection.

FUTURE PLANS

That collection, or a portion of it, is currently on display in an upstairs room at the Wingham Armouries building.

While Heywood is grateful for the space provided by the town, the society needs a permanent home for the entertainment museum, one that is accessible and clearly visible to the public.

Last fall, he approached town council with a proposal to locate the entertainment museum / tourist information centre at the south end of the town, near the Huron-Bruce Community Complex site.

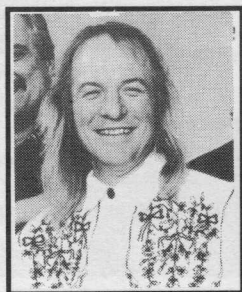
Heywood also would welcome the opportunity to incorporate the Wingham Historical Museum, currently located on the second floor of the old post office across from the town hall on Wingham's main street.

The town museum also has a wonderful collection of artifacts, but the upstairs location means it is not accessible to all members of the public. Heywood plans to return to council to update members on recent developments regarding the Barn Dance.

Continued on Page 4

The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



Being a working board member for the Barn Dance Historical Society has many rewards. Often times I'm asked "whatever happened to Barn Dance entertainers like, Cactus Mac, Al Cherney or Sharon Strong, Hank Bedard, or even that cute smiling guitar player, with the kiss curl, who used to sing on Circle 8 Ranch?" "Oh, you mean Hughie Elder," I'd say.

As the son of Earl and Martha Heywood, I was lucky enough to be raised in a country music environment and have never forgotten a lot of the performers and regulars of the original CKNX Barn Dance. It's nice to be able to relate to folks about performers from the 'good old days' and it's even better still to see their faces light up when I tell them that many of these entertainers will be appearing at some of our upcoming Barn Dances this year. Some of these original Barn Dance entertainers include: Hank Bedard, Mary Elliot Freeman, Earl and Martha Heywood, Lynn Russwurm, and Hughie Elder, to name a few.

I'm proud to be associated with these folks, and I'm just as 'tickled' when people ask "Who was that young girl singing

on stage? Can she ever sing", or "Can you tell me where I can buy a cassette or CD of that new guitar picking cowboy I just heard tonight?" And like many of the Barn Dance legends before them, these younger entertainers aren't any different. They're from our own backyard, right here in Southwestern Ontario, and that includes many of the band members on the Barn Dance stage, as well.

Without the pioneer performers and musicians of yesterday, there wouldn't have been a CKNX Barn Dance stage to perform on. With a growing interest of younger, new traditional talent, we can keep the Barn Dance tradition alive and give them the opportunity to become future pioneers and legends, like those who came before them.

Our fan base is getting bigger, our crowds at Barn Dance shows are increasing in numbers as well. With singers, step dancers, pickers and fiddlers, the Barn Dance will continue to provide wholesome, first class, country entertainment for generations to come.

Tell your friends to come out to the next Barn Dance. You'll have a great time, and get a chance to meet new and old acquaintances. Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance. It's yours to share and be a part of. We're just happy to keep it alive.

Drop us a line or fax anytime. See you at the next Barn Dance Show.

Grant Heywood,
R. R. #2,
Wellesley, Ont. N0B 2T0
Phone or Fax: (519) 656-2552

The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum

P.O. Box 68

Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

Phone (519) 357-2160

(or leave a message)

BARN DANCE WEBSITE:

<http://www.barndance.on.ca>

Earl Heywood

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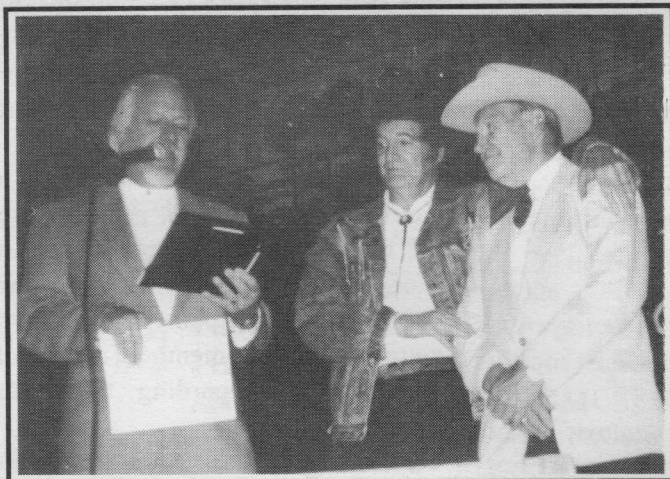
APPRECIATION AWARD

Mr. Jim Swan reading words from Appreciation Award that Michael T. Wall, "Newfoundland's Official Musical Ambassador" presented to Earl Heywood, "Canada's No. 1 Singing Cowboy", during a performance at the Blyth Arena May 27, 2000, in Blyth, Ontario. Award was for Earl's untiring effort in promoting "Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance" and Country Music in general world wide.

(This is what appeared on the Award) **APPRECIATION AWARD** to "Canada's No. 1 Singing Cowboy" **EARL HEYWOOD**, for his untiring work in promoting country music through his many hit recordings in Canada and around the world. Your good friend, **Michael T. Wall**, "The Singing Newfoundlander" 2000.

Pictured L to R: Jim Swan, Michael T. Wall and Earl Heywood.

(Photo by Joyce Steurnal)



IN MEMORIAM

CLARE ADLAM (Clarence Bailey) - Clare Adlam, well known throughout the Canadian Country Music Industry and entertainer for 80 years, passed away in his 85th year Monday, June 4, 2000. Born in Bentick Township, Grey County, he was the youngest child of David Adlam, and his wife Mary Ann Bailey.

Clare began playing a harmonica at the age of 4 accompanying his father on the violin. Later he learned to play the fiddle and made a series of recordings. Eventually he owned his own record company and music publishing business under Circle M Records. By the 1930's he first played on CFRB radio in Toronto, then came to CKNX radio in Wingham to play with the Early Birds, the Ranch Boys and appeared on Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance. Clare also guested on the Grand Old Opry in Nashville, Tenn. Nominated to the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame now in Calgary, Alberta, he also became a member of the Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum in Wingham, where his violin and

other artifacts will remain under the guardianship of his family. Clare is predeceased by 7 sisters and 3 brothers. Survived by his daughter, Mrs. Verna (Jim Birch) of the Owen Sound area; son Don Adlam, and wife Barb of B.C.; 5 grand children; his first wife Gladys McVean) Adlam; and his second wife Evelyn (Haw) Adlam. Internment in Durham Cemetery.

WILFRED FINK - A life member of our association, who joined us in 1962, and an executive board member from 1974 to 1995, died on June 10, in his 70th year. Wilf played guitar and sang with various local bands, including the Blue Rangers and the Wildwoods. He had been in poor health for some time, but Wilf had entertained for many years in area nursing homes, and his final job was an MPTF gig on May 10th at Knollcrest Nursing Home in Milverton.

LOUIS APPLEBAUM - a giant in Canadian music, composer of scores for more

than 75 Stratford Festival productions, including last year's School for Scandal. He died on April 20, 2000. Mr. Applebaum also wrote the fanfares which precede all Festival Theatre shows, and had many musical credits for work with the National Film Board, Hollywood movies, ballet, symphonic and choral works.

CLAYTON H. LATZ (Clayt) - passed away at his home suddenly on May 30, 2000. Clayt was 68 years old and was an active member with the Barn Dance Historical Society. Good neighbour and friend of Grant and Jeanette Heywood and family. Clayton was a genuine lover of old time country music. He will be sadly missed by wife, Doris, family and friends.

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.

Artist Profile - Doreen Brown

by Grant Heywood

Doreen Brown is a "dyed in the wool" traditional country music lover. She's a singer/guitarist, entertainer and promoter all in one package. She has been actively entertaining a jamborees, benefits and fairs and has also appeared at Roy Thompson Hall and guested on Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance.

He first self-penned recording release is title "Should I Cross the Line" and features many well known Canadian session players. Even Annita Perras sings backup vocal harmony on the CD. An earlier recording "Country Music Will Live On - 2000 and Beyond" has hints of Newfoundland, bluegrass and gospel music.

Recently Doreen's music was listed in the International Country Music Association's Top 300 and she has received airplay from Toronto to Texas, Denmark to Ireland, not to mention Nashville.

As a promoter, she is currently writing about "Legends of Country Music" for "Country Canada" music magazine.

Doreen also does articles for the Barn Dance Opera Journal and Entertainment News Country and Western Corner / Texas.

Besides being an active member and promoter of the Barn Dance Historical Society, she is also involved with the C.C.M.A., and the Global Country Heritage Foundation, just to name a few.

To contact Doreen Brown, write: DB Enterprizes, 1 Pergola Road, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 5K4.



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Continued from Page 1

FIRST PHASE

Although the Trillium grant money is most welcome, Heywood calls it phase one of the society's long-range plan for Wingham and area.

Showcasing the society's collection for a museum is the first phase, he explains and that is what the Trillium funding will be used to do.

The next phase will be finding a permanent home for the collection and finally, the last phase will be the development of a theme park to provide live entertainment while capitalizing on the area's musical past.

Heywood realizes it will all take time, but says the Barn Dance Society is well on its way to fulfilling a dream and a need in the community.

(reprinted with permission from the Wingham Advance Times)



CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION - Members of the Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum board were in a celebratory mood Sunday at their annual meeting, with word that the Trillium Foundation has approved a \$60,000 grant for the group over the next three years. The money will be used to showcase artifacts and memorabilia, such as the photographs seen at front. Board members toasting the news include: back, Ron Coulthard, David Hedley, Wayne Otterbein, Earl Heywood, Hugh Elder, Grant Heywood; front, John Heaman, June Therrien, Carol Johnston, Verna Steffler and Bill Simmermaker.
(Margaret Stapleton photo)

T.V. Ontario Production Crew Experience A Barn Dance Weekend in Blyth

by Shelley White, Producer,
Studio 2, TVOntario

A couple of months ago, I decided to feature The Barn Dance for the show I am a producer for, Studio 2. One of my colleagues, Leora Eisen, had done a segment in the Wingham area and had heard about The Barn Dance from one of its great promoters, Earl Heywood. I thought it would be a perfect segment for Studio 2, and a great behind-the-scenes look at an Ontario institution.

We showed up at Earl Heywood's house on Friday, May 26, and to our delight, he was ready and willing to give us the lowdown on the history of The Barn Dance. My crew consisted of audioman Peter Roy, and cameraman Kevin Glecoff, and we were made to feel welcome immediately. We set up in Earl's basement for the interview, and soon learned all about an incredibly popular event that has taken place since the 30's. It was interesting to hear about the stars that had gotten their start with the Barn Dance. One of my favourite stories was about Tommy Hunter, who hitch-

hiked to get to his first Barn Dance!

We had a great time shooting the pictures of Earl as a young, guitar-strumming singer, and his fabulous signed portrait of Gene Autre. Next, we welcomed Johnny Brent, and heard entertaining stories about his days as emcee for the Barn Dance. We also spoke with Ernie Kin and Cora Robertson, and were thrilled that the weather allowed us to do some of it in Earl's backyard!

Earl took us to the Barn Dance Hall of Fame, and I was impressed by the amount of artifacts and photos that had been collected. We learned about greats like Al Cherny, The Mercey Brothers, Mel Lavigne and Maurice Bolyer who performed with the Barn Dance. I particularly enjoyed seeing the shots of the people I had just interviewed, smiling and performing so many years ago.

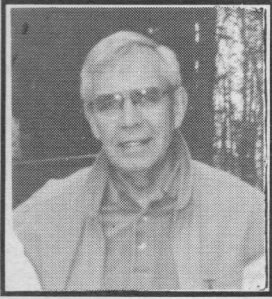
The next day we spent some time interviewing some of the people who had come to Blyth in their trailers for the Jamboree. They told us about their love for the kind of music and entertainment they get at The Barn Dance. Shortly after, we spent some time at the showcase, and sampled some of the local talent. We interviewed Earl's son, Grant Heywood, who took a well-deserved break from drumming (for hours!) for the dozens of singers who had taken the stage. We were soon anticipating our very first Barn Dance.

The evening was kicked off by a countdown, and it truly felt as if we were participating in a radio broadcast of the Barn Dance, as it had been for so many years. Kevin maneuvered around the hall to get shots of the evening's performers. We especially enjoyed young singer Katie Roth, the stepping Storrey sisters, and a rousing Mockingbird by Randy Morrison and the Barn Dance Band. The finale was terrific, with all the performers joining together for a rendition of "I Saw the Light". It was a pleasure to take in all that talent in one room. Dancing completed our evening.

I was born on a farm just outside of Brigiden, Ontario, which is twenty minutes from Petrolia, and about half hour from Sarnia. I can truly say that being around the people and sounds of the Barn Dance really reminded me of home. The people we met were full of small town hospitality and helped make our trip a success. I'm now working on the segment on the Barn Dance, which we are planning to run on Studio 2, beginning Thurs., June 30 at 8:00 p.m. and being re-broadcast periodically throughout the summer and fall.

Just Fiddling Around . . .

with Bill Oja



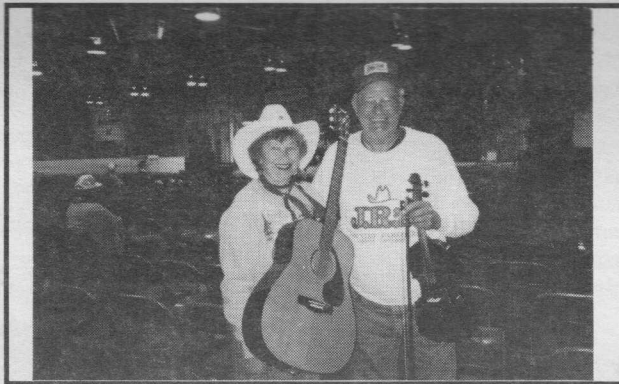
NEIL SAMMUT, co-ordinator and M/C at the Black Creek Pioneer Village Fiddle Contest presents a trophy to **JOSHUA CHASE** in the 12 and Under Class.



Here we see "Fiddling" Father **BERNARD HEFFERNAN** finishing off a rousing set on his fiddle at the Douro Fiddle and Step Dance Contest.



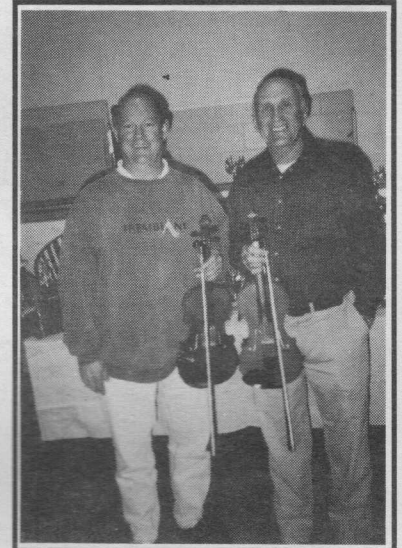
Making things run smoothly at the Douro Contest were house fiddler **SCOTT WOODS**, step dance judge **RHODINA SCHRYER**, fiddle judge **BRIAN HERBERT**, judge **KELLI TROTTIER**, and stopping in on his cross-Canada tour to judge was **IVAN HICKS** of New Brunswick.



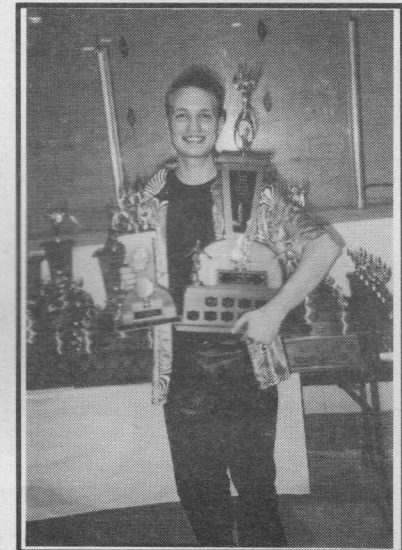
At the extremely successful Blyth Campout and Jamboree are two of the many entertainers. Popular country vocalist **DOREEN BROWN** lent her talents and singer, fiddler and M/C, **FRANK STILES** showed why he's in demand. Both artists have brand new CDs.



A successful Dobro workshop was run by **AL WIDMEYER** at Blyth. Helping out were **GERRY WHITEHEAD**, **LLOYD OTTERBEIN**, **LES REILLY** and **CARL MILLER**.



In the duet class at the Perth Fiddle and Step Dance Contest, **RANDY FOSTER** (the fiddling fireman) and partner **BRUCE ARMITAGE** showed everyone else how it should be done.



Young **CHAD WOLFE** of North Bay has one of the finest fiddle and step dance schools in Ontario. Here we see Chad picking up the first place trophy for Open Step at Douro.

COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

- * **Fonthill Legion**, features Grant Carson Band the 3rd Sunday of the month from 2 to 6 p.m.
- * **Benefit for the People of Walkerton**, will be held July 16 at the Collingwood Legion, Br. 63. Entertainment consists of Silent Auction, also featuring country entertainers and lunch will be served. Tickets are available in advance or at the door. \$5.00 per person. For further information contact Ruby Klinck (705) 445-5153; Maggie Nezervic (705) 445-0712; or Collingwood Legion (705) 445-3780.
- * **Appearances** by Gerald Davidson of the Country Versatiles: July 22, Lakeside; August 19, Lakeside; August 27, Wingham Legion; September 23, Lakeside; September 30, Wa-

terdown Legion.

- * **Country Jamboree**, July 28, 29 and 30, Atwood Park, Atwood, Ont. Featuring David Lee Murphy, Lace and John Landry. Rough camping available. Also appearing Karl Kees, Jeff Tanner and Randy Satchell. Tickets available from TicketMaster 1-416-870-8000.
- * **Mark Sullivan**, is at Shelburne Arena, Aug. 10; and Goderich Celtic College Festival, Aug. 12 and 13.
- * **Join the fun** at Gibson's Jamboree, Horner and Brown's Line, Toronto, every Sunday afternoon.
- * **Sandy's Place**, Weston Rd. South of Lawrence, features Raymond Cison, Sundays from 3 to 7 p.m.
- * **During July, Aug. & Sept.** - Peter Styles-Karaoke Express, will be at TNT's Sports Bar, Eglinton west of Dufferin, Toronto, every Tuesday and at Spoartain's Sports Bar, Jane and Shoreham, south of Steeles, every Thursday.
- * **19th Annual Bluegrass Festival**, and 13th Country Music Festival, July 23, 24 & 25, Palmer Rapid Twin Festivals. Follow the signs on Hwy. 514 & 515. Call (613) 587-4683.
- * **Putnam Pete's Dinner Theatre**, presents All New Musical "Wagon Train", April to Dec. 20. For reservations call (519) 269-3267. Belmont, Ontario.
- * **Appearances by Doreen Brown** - July 9 - Maple Leaf Country Jamboree by Chef Adams, 707 Strigley St., Newmarket Legion; July 10 - Holland Landing Community Centre; Aug. 5 - Classic Country Music Reunion,

- entertainment downtown, Main St., Trenton, Sat. afternoon; Aug. 13 - Musicians' Cornroast, McKee Road, (4790), at Hwy. 57, Blackstock; Sept. 30 - Benefit for the Lung Support Services, Moose Lodge, Hwy. 27 & Brown's Line, all welcome.
- * **2nd Annual Bluegrass Jamboree**, Willow Park Campgrounds, Aug. 11, 12 & 13, near Hagersville. Phone (905) 768-1448, Marvin and Marilyn LaForme.
- * **Country Music Cruise for Heart and Stroke**, on Aug. 20, Toronto. For tickets call Lincoln Lariviere (905) 683-1498.
- * **CMC Ambassadors**, appearing Aug. 12 Sutton Fair Grounds 1 to 4 p.m., Sutton and Lake Ontario. Boat Cruise 1 to 3 p.m. Harbour Front.
- * **Len Murphy's Caribou Country**, features Roger Saunder July 21 & 22, Coldwater. This group also appears at Sandy's Place, Weston, July 6, 7, 8, 9, 27, 28, 29 & 30; Also Orillia Fair on Sept. 8, 9 and 10.
- * **9th Annual Bluegrass Family Weekend**, River Place Park, Aug. 18, 19 and 20, Festival and ticket information, R.R.#3, Ayton, Ont. (519) 665-2228 or (519) 364-3748. Featured artists: Reno Bros.; Hard Ryde; Northern City Limits; Haldimand Country Line; Carl Goodman & Co.; 40 West; Randy Morrison; and Northbound Hometown Bluegrass.

NEWS, NOTES 'N EVENTS

Old Time fiddler Allan Miller of Holyrood, stages another Hog Roast, Sat., July 15 at 3:30 p.m. at Calude Dore's Picnic grounds, 4 miles east of Holyrood, or 3 corners east of Lucknow to Langside Road and 4 corners north. Bring your lawn chairs and instruments and join in on the toe tapping music together. Overnight camping provided.



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Sizes M, L, XL	\$15.00 each
Souvenir Hats	\$12.00 each

Please include \$2.00 per item for mailing or pick up at Ernie King Music.

SPECIAL THANKS:

To the Blyth Lions Club and to all the people who volunteered their help to make this years Blyth Campout Weekend (May 26, 27 & 28) the most successful ever. With bluegrass, musical workshops, open jamborees, Barn Dance show and dance, and country gospel, next year will be even bigger and better. Thanks to all the fans and camper too. It was a lot of fun.

*Bill Simmermaker,
Blyth Campout
Co-ordinator, and all the
board members of
The Barn Dance
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**HOWDY FOLKS:**

This year all roads lead to Fergus, Ontario for the Wellington County International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show. Don't miss this week of events on September 19th to the 23rd to celebrate the year 2000.

Yes, Martha and I, and Helen and Lloyd Otterbein, extend a special invitation to everyone to look us up in the Antique and Historical Tent where you will see our colourful display of "Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance" and much more. This will also be an opportunity for you to see our Ole Fashioned Patch Quilt. You could be a winner when we make the draw over

CKNX Radio 920 on the dial, Wingham, Ontario on November 22, 2000 during the noon hour.

Tuesday evening May 30, 2000 a group of members of the Barn Dance Historical Society, met at the Museum Quarters in the Wingham Armouries located at the rear of the Wingham Heritage Theatre. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Wayne Otterbein and a group of other Society members who offered to participate in some of the work. They are Gord Baxter, Ernie King, Johnny Heaman, Earl and Martha Heywood, Lloyd and Helen Otterbein, and Dave Wallace. Both Ernie King and Earl Heywood agreed to commence laying the ground work for two showcase projects to become permanent fixtures that will display special attractions for the Barn Dance Entertainment Museum

Our thanks go out to all those who supported our request for a substantial grant presented to us by the Trillium Foundation of Ontario. A total of \$60,000. spread over a three year term. I assure you, we will do our best to see the

money is spent in high quality memorabilia and show pieces of the most interest to those who may visit our museum.

Above all do not forget to attend "Canada's Ole Tyme Fiddle Convention" and the annual Barn Dance Rally for fans and friends who love the Saturday Night Barn Dances. Bring the family and come to the Royal Canadian Legion Auditorium in Wingham on Sunday, October 1, 2000. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. Fiddle Concert at 1:00 p.m. Bring your fiddle, guitars, and instruments and if you are a tap dancer, comedian, sing songs, duets or quartets, register your act and enter the Search for Talent Show. You can register now by sending a letter to Earl Heywood, Box 443, Wingham, Ont. N0G 2W0, explaining your act.

Remember,

THE SHOW MUST GO ON,
so let me hear from you soon.

Earl Heywood
Founder, Hon. President,
Director, Advisor

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