



Price: \$2.00 (tax incl.)

# The Barn Dance Opera Journal



Official Publication of:

The Barn Dance Historical Society Inc.



A Not For Profit Organization

Barn Dance Website: [www.thebardance.ca](http://www.thebardance.ca)

**Vol. 86 2015**

**Fall Edition**

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## The 'Guitar Corner' in Kitchener is King

by Grant Heywood

For years it was a little corner grocery store, and then it sat empty. But today there is no mistaking the Guitar Corner sign at 165 Victoria St. in Kitchener. It's like an old guitar that has been given a new life, so to speak. Everything from new guitars, old vintage guitars, dobros, banjos, etc., the Guitar Corner is a guitar players mecca ... and that's the dream that owner, Dwayne King finally realized 3 1/2 years ago.

Dwayne King was 14 when he took his completely damaged Yamaha acoustic to his uncle Ernie King in Wingham. Ernie told him to bring in each and every little piece of that guitar and totally repaired it within 3 months. Dwayne was blown away and still has that guitar to this day. He used to visit his Uncle Ernie & Aunt Darlene when he was younger and was always fascinated by Ernie's guitar/fiddle workshop. I believe he knew what his destiny would be once he learned from the master.

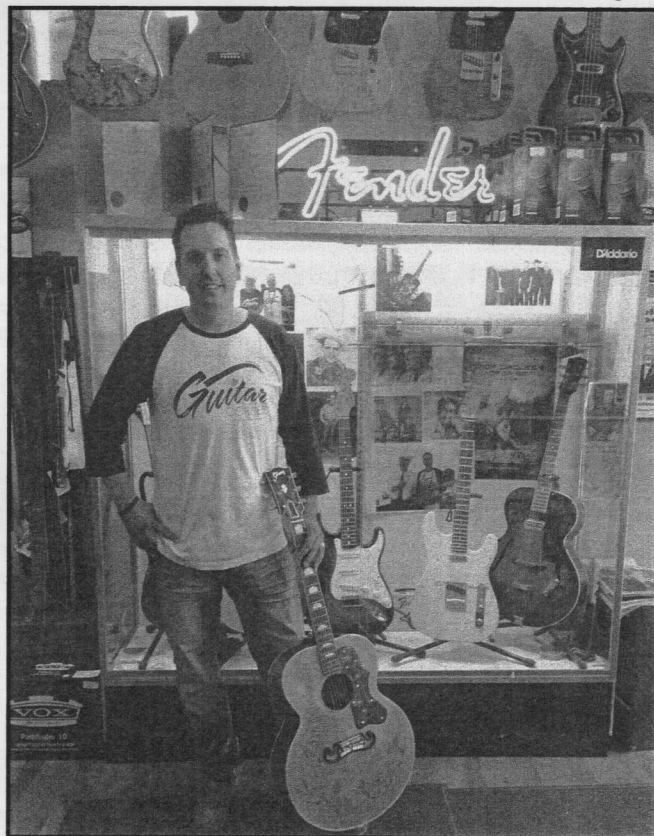
Dwayne played guitar from an early age and once he was he was good at the instrument he played guitar and sang with local reggae musician Errol Blackwood and his band. Uncle Ernie was definitely an influence on Dwayne though, as he spent all the time he could learning from Ernie. Dwayne says, "He wouldn't just fix a guitar. He showed me how to fix it right." Ernie asked Dwayne if anything should happen to him, what would he want from his shop? "Ernie's work bench" Dwayne told me, and it is what he works on to this day. The best advice from his uncle Ernie was, "You don't have to charge a lot ... but you have to make a living." Words Dwayne lives by to this day.

Dwayne would drive by 165 Victoria St. S. every day on his way to work dreaming of opening a guitar shop at that location and soon his vision became a reality. Dwayne credits his wife Tanya, Aunt Darlene and Dave and Marie Wallace, who operate Ernie King Music in Wingham and Goderich, as the key people who have helped him immensely in making the Guitar Corner a success. In fact, Dwayne says he is always calling up Dave Wallace for advice and says Dave has always steered him in the right direction. It goes without saying that Dwayne's father in law, Greg Fries was also an inspiration and his first guitar teacher too.

The Guitar Corner is staffed by mainly guitar players, including local picker Cory Barnes. Dwayne is always around either with a customer or repairing a guitar which is his passion. They carry everything guitar related, electric or acoustic, including amplifiers. But vintage instruments are the specialty here and there always seems to be an endless supply. Dwayne handed me a 1957 Gretsch Country Gentleman guitar that came in on a trade. A new Gretsch guitar like this just doesn't have the playability as the older vintage ones. "It's the vintage instruments that are sought after." says Dwayne, "I love how they sound." I couldn't agree more.

Dwayne is a chip off the old block when it comes to building guitars too. He figures he's built around 100 or so D. King guitars. He got permission to change the E. King to the D. King, from his Aunt Darlene. He builds mainly telecaster types, but others as well including a 'git-steel' like Junior Brown's which is displayed in the store. Some of his all-time favourite guitars to work on have been Lynn Russwurm's Gibson J2000 and my dad's (Earl Heywood) 1947 Martin D28. Dwayne said ever since he was a kid he wanted a vintage guitar like the one's he'd see in those Barn Dance/Circle 8 Ranch Boys pics ... only with his name on it. As soon as you

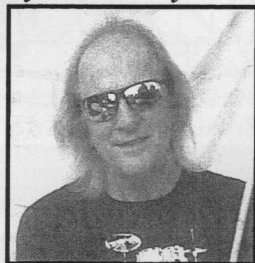
*Continued on Page 3*



**DWAYNE KING, "The Guitar Corner"**

## The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



I've had some folks tell me I should write a travel journal, since I'm always performing or visiting somewhere outside of western Ontario. Although I've been quite busy performing most of the summer, it has been of the local nature and that's alright with me. Sometimes performing and travelling can get to be a bit much. Musicians like to call it a 'working holiday'. They're right about that, but it still is a lot of work regardless, a labour of love (so to speak).

Since we had such a brutally cold winter in 2015, our family decided that this would be the year to head to a warmer climate for vacation. We opted for the island of Maui in Hawaii on the strong suggestion by a band member who had been there. You might think that August is an odd time to visit such a tropical location but the 'off season' prices were enough to persuade us to go. Cheap air and hotel rates were just too tempting. Getting to Hawaii makes for a long flight since it is about 11 hours including a stopover. (Ours was a 4 hr. layover in L.A.) I can't sleep on a plane, but that didn't really matter. Who cares! We're heading to Maui, Hawaii.

Once there, we picked up our rental car from a local company, Kihei Rent A Car. I find it's always a good idea to deal locally and we weren't disappointed. Quick, friendly service at a reasonable price and they even put on a new tire in record time when we had a flat. They also gave us advice on local activities, tourist sites, restaurants, and live music. Love these guys! Then off to our hotel, The Maui Coast Hotel in Kihei, Maui. The hotel is right across from the beach and has all the amenities, pool, hot tub, poolside bar/snacks, and the most comfortable beds in the world. The warm hospitality of the Hawaiian people is as unforgettable as the beautiful Hawaiian sunsets.

Fortunately for me, I attended a concert at a small theatre in Kahului and got to see Roger McGuinn who I've always wanted to see. Roger's claim to fame was the 60's rock group The Byrds but he also played folk music with the New Christy Minstrels early on in his career. He played many songs including Mr. Tambourine Man, and others while talking about his career and friendship with Bob Dylan as well as how the songs came to be. It was a magic evening indeed. We also had live music by our hotel

pool every night and the singles & duos played everything from Hawaiian, reggae, rock, blues, jazz, country and even original songs. It was even more relaxing when a guitarist did an excellent rendition of Santo & Johnny's hit, Sleepwalk.

While staying in Kihei in Maui, we traversed the world renowned Hana Hwy. A road trip not for the faint of heart. It is 38 miles around the base of the Haleakala volcano and there are many places to stop and enjoy the view, including a black sand beach, waterfalls, botanical gardens, etc. ... but the road is nothing but sharp twists and turns with one lane bridges and often times a 500 ft. drop over the edge. It is something you have to experience ... but once was enough for me. We also drove 10,000 ft. up to the top of the dormant Haleakala volcano to see the sunset. Once again the roads snaked and slithered up the mt. but at least there were guardrails. The view from the top was breathtaking and the temp. was around 35 F as opposed to 95 F at ground level. The Haleakala volcano is 600 ft. higher than Mt. Everest if you measure from the sea bottom where it starts to the top. Very spiritual at the top and you feel you can almost touch the sky.

We spent much time at the beach and snorkeling at a little bay near Wailea. My daughter Janessa and I decided to spend an afternoon on a snorkel cruise to Molikini, a sunken crater about 3 or 4 miles from Maui. We rode on a catamaran boat outfitted for about 25 people when the sea swells caused many to be seasick. When we got there the boat was rocking from the wave action. 'Experienced snorkelers only' said the captain. There were only a handful of us who braved the sea swells. Once in the water you could see coral, many coloured reef fish, and it was clear to about 150 feet down. After 20 minutes the water was so rough we had to abandon the adventure and get back to port. Too bad, because on a clear calm day there are several boats of people taking in the underwater view. Sometimes there are dolphins at play, or sea turtles, and maybe even a manta ray or whale shark. But not this day.

There is so much beauty in Maui (one of 4 major Hawaiian islands) it actually takes your breath away. From towering volcanic peaks, to sun drenched beaches, rocky gorges and palm treed jungles, as well as fields of sugarcane. Every morning we would wake up and enjoy the panoramic vista. The variety of food choices is endless but the local seafood is very tasty. Shave ice is the order of the day on a hot afternoon and can be found at many places all over the island. Shave ice is just that; ice that is shaved and moulded into a bowl with any kind of flavouring added that you can dream of. Unlike our snowcones, shave ice is smooth and not crystalline. We also took in the Maui Ocean Centre in Maalaea about a ½ hour drive from our hotel. It was an incredible aquarium and most of the captured water creatures are only there for a while and then set free and replaced. Maui is very self-conscious about the environment.

## The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum

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BARN DANCE WEBSITE:  
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and Lynn Russwurm.

No plastic bags are used and recycling is the norm there.

After 10 days in paradise it was time to go home, even though we didn't really want to. There were 3 hurricanes that had been circling a ways out from the Hawaiian islands in the last few days so I guess it was time to go home. Flying back from Kahului, Maui to a stopover in Vancouver and then back to Toronto can be quite tiring. We had been up all day Thursday and took our flight out at 10:30 p.m. and eventually arrived in Toronto on Friday night about 10:30. Phew! It was time to get some sleeeeeeep and get back to normal. Aaahh but I still dream about those swaying palms and the sound of the ocean waves. Maybe again someday.

In the meantime don't forget to check out the Barn Dance Schedule. We still have few more Barn Dance Shows this fall and it would sure be nice to see you there. Hope you can make it to the next Barn Dance Show. I know I'll be there.

Comments? Please contact:

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or send a message on facebook.

## 2015 COMING EVENTS

Date	Event Name	Place
Sun., Oct. 25	Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m.	Hanover Civic Theatre, Hanover
Sun., Nov. 15	Barn Dance Show - 2:30 p.m.	Brigden Fairgrounds, Brigden
Thurs., Nov. 26	Barn Dance Christmas Show - 7:00 p.m.	Norgan Theatre, Palmerston

Continued from Page 1

enter the store there is a hallowed glass display case of treasured vintage guitars and pics from the 'old days', including a picture of my dad, Earl Heywood and his famous 1937 Martin 0018 with his name on it. It's like a guitar shrine.

As Dwayne and wife Tanya raise a family, Dwayne has been busy finishing a recording studio in the basement and hopes to expand the store to two locations in the near future. The Guitar Corner has seating for 40 people, when local artists perform onstage, right in the store. Local award winning producer/guitarist, Jason Barry is on tour with Dean Brody and always has a D. King telecaster in his arsenal. Dwayne is hoping to build a dobro or two this winter and Al Widmeyer has requested the first one. When Dwayne isn't building or selling guitars, you can find him and Tanya performing at a local pub or just checking out the local talent in the area.

There is no doubt that Dwayne King has a love affair with guitars. It's also good to know that the legacy continues as Dwayne has certainly learned almost everything he knows from his Uncle Ernie King. I personally know that Dwayne has also given back to the community and individual musicians in a way that truly makes him 'old school'. And that is a rare commodity in this day and age indeed.

Check out The Guitar Corner at 165 Victoria Street South, Kitchener, Ontario or [theguitarcorner.ca](http://theguitarcorner.ca)

*Martha Heywood is recuperating from a broken hip recently. Anyone wanting to send 'Get Well' wishes are encouraged to send them to: RVilla, 22 Park Street, Ripley, Ontario N0G 2R0. I'm sure she would dearly appreciate it.*

## FEATURE C. D. REVIEW

### "Yodelin' Christmas"

**Naomi Bristow** featuring Whispering Bill Anderson

by Grant Heywood

Naomi Bristow has been making appearances on stage and television, across Canada and the U.S. now for several years. As a teenager you'd think she'd just be getting started. Not this girl. She has performed on the Barn Dance stage countless times since she began her career, and has more C.D.'s to her credit than I care to count. Her latest C.D., 'Yodelin' Christmas' comes as no



surprise from a young girl that can yodel with the best of them. This C.D. features Nashville legend, Whispering Bill Anderson on the classic tune 'Po Folk'. Naomi is very fortunate to surround herself with some of the legends of country music and the pairing of Bill Anderson and Naomi on this tune works quite well.

This Christmas packaged C.D. has 10 songs in total with a pic of Naomi, front and back. There is no mention of the production or musicians on the C.D. so I will go out on a limb and say it was likely recorded in Nashville as many of her latest recordings although she has used many of Canada's top country musicians as well. 'I'll Be Home With Bells On' is a bouncy opening cut and 'O Holy Night' opens with just piano and Naomi's voice building to a 'choir like' crescendo. The 'Santa Claus Yodelin' Song' is a fun song and familiar territory for Naomi's fine yodeling talent. 'Do You Hear What I Hear' and the Leonard Cohen classic 'Hallelujah' are well executed by Naomi's noticeable maturing vocals. 'Santa Looks A Lot Like Daddy' is a song that Naomi has performed before on our Barn Dance stage and demonstrates that fun, bubbly side of Naomi's stage personality that she's famous for.

'The Christmas Letter' and 'The Christmas Shoes' are unique choices for this Christmas C.D., which ends with an uplifting version of 'Silent Night'. Naomi has certainly been working on her vocal skills and hits many of the soaring high notes with ease. 'Yodelin' Christmas' would make a great Christmas gift especially for those who haven't been introduced to this young lady's vocal talents. Naomi Bristow will undoubtedly be featured in an upcoming Barn Dance Show in 2016. If you wish to purchase the C.D. 'Yodelin' Christmas', go to [www.NaomiBristow.com](http://www.NaomiBristow.com)



Michael T. Wall, "The Singing Newfoundlander" presents a Fender guitar to the "Australian Country Music hall of Fame" in Tamworth, Australia, April 2015. Seen here with Australia's famous country radio show host, Big Al Field.



## A Father's Legacy - live every moment

by Liana Russwurm

As an artist and being one of seven siblings, all of which were graced with the talent of creativity in one form or another, I have always struggled forward trying to find a place where I could be creative, live and find my voice. A pursuit not always successful but has always been encouraged and supported by my family and mostly my father.

Lynn Russwurm, my dad, has always been an inspiration to me. Not only for finding success in his pursuit as a country music artist, writer, promoter and historian, but also for his energy, focus and never letting life crush his dreams. That determination and stamina he holds, (that some day I know I won't even have half of) always has had me asking more of myself, and I have him to thank.

Early in June, Lynn was admitted to the hospital with flu-like symptoms, not for very long but he never seemed to get rid of a cough. Anyone who knows my father wouldn't have been surprised to know that on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June he played a gig with his band he formed with Bob Tremblay, Two Plus Who at the Top End in Neustadt a regular monthly gig.

Sometime in July was when I became aware of the fact that he hadn't gotten rid of his cough, and thought maybe he needed to slow down. I have two hours from my dad, between London and Garnia in a small town called Alvinston. I myself seem to have too many irons in the fire, one of those being part of a committee that we're organizing, an arts and music festival in Alvinston. I had called my dad to ask if he could play either alone or with another musician, as it was a fundraiser to help create a community art space. Of course he said yes and it wasn't until I spoke with my brother Lance that I was told maybe it wasn't such a good idea and that dad doesn't always know when he should take it easy.

In July he also suffered a fall and was having a hard time getting around yet that didn't stop him from going out with Lance to get a new computer even though he could hardly walk. Nothing seems to slow my dad down. I've often said to friends how he puts me to shame for all he gets accomplished in a day.

Well, I guess at some point you have to stop and look at things to check to see if maybe you should slow down, even if just a little. Turning 85 this fall, Lynn wasn't quite listening to his body. By August 2<sup>nd</sup> my dad was back in the hospital. I found out when he called me to tell me that maybe he couldn't play in Alvinston on August 22<sup>nd</sup> for our Arts and Music Fest. My reaction "Dad, I don't care, just take care of yourself!" I took a trip in to see him in the hospital. He looked good, although coughing and a little older

than I am used to seeing him. He had a rash that they were concerned with all over his legs. They had felt it might have been a reaction to medication they had him on. Still to this day they haven't found out how or why it started.

This stay in the hospital only lasted a few days and then they discharged him. Looking back they know it was too early. On the next Thursday evening he couldn't breathe and his partner/friend ended up calling an ambulance and by the 9<sup>th</sup> of August whatever was going on was getting very serious.

Not to go through it all in every detail but lets just say my dad's body told him in no uncertain terms to slow down. He's been in the ICU twice, on life support twice, undergone an emergency operation to deal with an unrelated issue, he's undergone a biopsy, a little chemotherapy and has had a bout where he has needed dialysis. On September 18<sup>th</sup> after he had his emergency operation they put him into an induced coma, which at the time doctors thought he might have to stay in for a week.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> I was lucky enough to make sure I was able to come see him in the hospital. We didn't know whether things at this point would get better or worse. I tried not to think about it at all, I just knew I needed to come. They had woke him up that day but he was still hooked up to many machines, he squeezed my hand and Lance pointed out how good his colour was. I could only stay a day so over the next week I relied on my brother Lance keeping me updated.

The fighter in my dad came out. He had a couple of rough days, the drugs taking him into an unknown place but then Lance stopped in for a visit and found our Aunt Gertie there having a conver-

sation while he was sitting up in bed. Since that time he has consistently been improving, with only a few minor setbacks.

I was able to visit once more since then, September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. We took a walk with a nurse who seemed to be impressed with his progress. He feels lucky to still be here and he is humbled by the visits, get-well wishes and cards he's received since this all started. Seija, a recent addition to his life has been there at his side encouraging his recovery and I know he feels he may not be here if it hadn't been for her support. As my father's daughter I am grateful to know he has someone close with a friendship that can't be replaced easily.

Sitting with my dad in the hospital room I was reminded about how strong this man is and how much he loves life. I have always been aware that in this regard I take after my father and strive to not let its hardships take that away from me. He now has plans in the works to slow down a little. Move into a smaller home, downsize and focus on the time he has left and how to enjoy that. He seems set on making the most of it, not that he hasn't all of his life, he has. I just think now he's noticing the little things. That's the difference.

Just after I returned home, Lynn sold his collection of 8000 78 rpm records from his hospital bed. Slowing down for him will never equal stopping.

I'm a daddy's girl. I guess that I always have been. Sometimes people say that as if there should be some sort of shame in it. When I think of my father, I smile and think of the pure joy of life, determination, strength and power to look inside and follow what's right for me that he's taught me. Right now I can think of a lot of worse things I could be and I wear that title with honour.



*Lynn - doing what he loves doing - and always with that wonderful smile on his face.*

# Naturally, Real, Artificial Imitations Rant

## (Food for Thought and the Ears)

by Grant Heywood

It always makes me wonder when a product is advertised as 'real'. Sometimes the word genuine, or authentic is substituted for 'real'. Let's take food for example. When I was a kid I thought everything we ate was real food ... well except maybe those puff bunnies and ju jubes, but for the most part food was real, and free of chemicals and pesticides usually. Now we have organic food or 'all natural' food. What the hell were we eating before all this happened?

For instance, read the ingredients on some ice cream products and it may say 'real dairy ice cream' but upon closer inspection there may be a litany of ingredients and only 10% cream, or maybe none. Peanut butter may say 'all natural' until you see the word 'tasting' under the 'all natural' label. Natural tasting peanut butter ... Mmmm with propylene glycol (which is really a type of anti-freeze), monosodium glutamate, dextrose, Yellow dye colour #5, sodium hydroxide, sulphites, sodium phosphate, component of fertilizer), BHT, guar gum and ... natural flavouring, which they extract from what this product was supposed to be originally. May contain peanuts. Ha Ha. Go figure.

We have been guinea pigs for way too long. About time we woke up to how big business has been allowed to subject our personal health to many different chemicals that we were never intended to ingest. The world has become a global market and that means whatever corporations can do to increase their bottom line, they will. Now China is shipping more processed food, meat and vegetables to Canada. They don't have the regulations we have in Canada but I fear that some of the food from China may be grown in tainted lead based soil, or pork and beef contain more mercury or chemicals than are allowed here in Canada. I realize the world has changed but our government used to regulate the food industry more rigidly. I question the reduction of almost half of our meat inspectors when we are seeing more and more outbreaks of salmonella and listeria. Is it any wonder people today have more

health and allergy problems earlier in life. Nowadays you have to ask and/or read the ingredients on the labels carefully. Remember, you are what you eat.

Music, for example, not unlike food, has also changed in how it's created, produced, managed and delivered. The country listened to on radio today is not the 'real' country music listened to on radio yesterday, unless you have access to satellite radio or a few local stations ... including Randy Owen at 107.3 in Tillsonburg. Of course we don't eat our music like we do with food, but we do listen or consume it and digest it through our ears. I'm not bashing all country music on radio as there are some very talented artists who do strive to be as real country as possible. I personally don't listen to too much radio so I wouldn't know Luke Bryan from The Florida Georgia Line, but I'll bet they're not 'real' country.

You'll hear labels bandied about like, 'Original Country' or maybe even 'Roots Country' and let's not forget 'Americana'. How about 'Bro Country', 'Country Fusion', 'Three Ring Circus Country', 'Heavy Metal Country', 'Hip Hop Country' ... hell, even 'new country' is turning out to be 'old country' ... pleeeeeease give me a break. It's not country Damn it!!! What we now call 'Americana' is really based on 'country rock' from the 60's and 70's. Hey, what was wrong with that? At least it was country mixed with rock or vice versa, not rock, rap, r & b, with a country lyric or maybe the artist wears cowboy boots and once in while you might hear a whiff of fiddle. If you've ever watched country music awards on television or videos with new country musicians or groups, there is usually a token musician playing dobro, banjo, or mandolin and sometimes even steel guitar, but most often it's staged. Quite often the person playing doesn't even play that instrument and if they do, well you hardly hear much of it above the power chords of the guitar. Quite frankly, it is embarrassing.

Some say that country music has gone to pot and Willie Nelson & Merle Haggard, have proved that with their latest hit, 'It's All Going To Pot'. Who'd ever figure that these two country legends would ever see the light of day at the top of the country music charts, again. But it's not really the country artist's fault. Nashville's wheeler dealers at the top of the food chain pretty much dictate what gets airplay on radio anymore. If you ain't singin' about pick-up trucks, 6 packs, partying and girls in tight jeans, and backing it up with rock licks, thumping drums, rap or sex craved women, then your chances are slim for becoming famous. The powers that be pretty much tell artists what to play, how to play it and how it should be delivered. Not very creative, if you ask me. You could say that the bigger percentage of country music today is being pumped out like pre-formed, processed cookies. 'Cookie cutter' is what most folks like to call these acts. Many of them sound the same.

I wanted to see some of my friends, who are local musicians, and were appearing on the latest CCMA Awards show in Halifax. Unfortunately, they were obscured by much of the 'un-country' sound

while performing, but they have to play the game to be seen and heard in a 'dog eat dog' country music media environment if they plan to have a national or international presence. And what the heck is going on with the sound. The CCMA's broadcast sound was terrible. Okay so it's not that country, but the least the network could do is provide good sound. I mean, come on, this is a first class music awards ceremony and it is all about the sound. Not fireworks, a gazillion flashing lights, distracting close ups shots, tattoo's, and how many blings you can attach to your nose, ears, and eyebrows and let's not forget the ripped jeans. Wow! How creative. Been there, seen that.

At least rock and roll radio respects older rock music, and many play songs from the 60's on up to the 90's. Maybe country music has to catch up before they respect their elders. Pretty hard to know where you're going if you don't know where you came from. Just because traditional country music is old doesn't mean people don't listen to it. Hell, we're not all dead ... yet! It has always amazed me about these accountants and lawyer type people who run the music industry. I always thought it was about profit margin. Why would you only promote younger artists garnering maybe 50 or 60% of the veritable 100% of country music fans, when you could satisfy 100% of country music fans by playing traditional plus newer country music as a mix. I realize that it's easier to 'condition' or 'program' younger fans with the newer music so that they buy product like C.D.'s. Last I heard was that most young folks don't buy many C.D.'s. They just stream or download it for practically free. Duh! Maybe that's part of the problem. On the other hand, (excuse the pun), traditional country fans are loyal and do buy C.D.'s and still go to hear their favourite country artists in concert.

Well that comes as no surprise. People still come to the Barn Dance Shows and most are sold out performances. Many of the performers, including the musicians, are traditional country music lovers and players, as are many of our younger 'up and coming' performers. 'Real' country music isn't dead, it's just been ignored by the corporate elite, mainly from Nashville. Entertainment venues like the Commercial Tavern in Maryhill, the Classic Country Music Reunion in Trenton, the National Traditional Country Music Association in Iowa, and our very own Barn Dance Shows, are living proof that traditional country music is alive and well. With your continued support it will never die. Maybe you are what you eat, but then again you are what you listen to as well. See you at the next Barn Dance.



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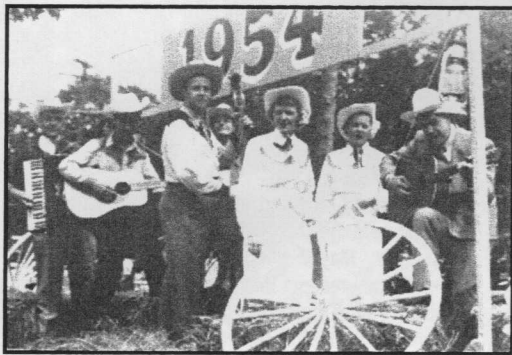
## BOOKING THE BARN DANCE

*If you are interested in more information about booking the Barn Dance Musical Production, please write to:*

*Barn Dance Bookings, P. O. Box 68,  
Wingham, Ont. N0G 2W0;  
or call ~ (519) 530-8000*

*E-mail: [webmaster@thebardance.ca](mailto:webmaster@thebardance.ca)*

# Country Music Memories



*Wingham Frontier Days in 1954 with The Barn Dance Gang on a parade float.*



*The Paul Brothers and sister Shirley backstage at a Barn Dance Show.*



*1955 with The Barn Dance Gang all dressed up for Halloween.*



*Ernie King Recording Studio in Wingham with Champion Fiddler, Mel Lavigne (front). From L to R, Bill Mankiss, keyboards/accordion, Ken Ducharme, guitar, and Grant Heywood, drums.*



*Original Barn Dance M.C., Johnny Brent introducing the step dancing sisters, The Storey Sisters.*



*The young Mercey Brothers, Larry and Ray, in front of the overflowing well at Formosa Spring Gardens.*



*Michael T. Wall and Doreen Brown at Oprey Orillia.*



*Promotional picture of Earl & Martha Heywood doing their "Gay Nineties" routine.*

## COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

**Purple Hill Country Opry** - upcoming  
at [www.facebook.com/purplehillcountryhall](http://www.facebook.com/purplehillcountryhall)

**Oct. 4** - back by popular demand. Carroll Baker, the Queen of Country Music, will again grace our Purple Hill Opry stage. The Baker Street Band will back Carroll in this all new Carroll Baker Show. Showtime 2 pm. Roast Beef dinner included, following the show. **Nov. 1** - I wouldn't take a million dollars for a single maple leaf and medallion of gold by Roy Payne. The show will feature the Purple Hill Show band. Special guests Roy Payne, Sandra Glabb, Caoline Danowski Archill, Ted Bestard and Bob Hanson. This will be recorded live. Showtime 2 pm. **Sun. Oct. 6** - Larry Mercey Trio and the Good Brothers. Both are excited to be playing in the new show and venue. The Larry Mercey Trio with Al Alderson and George Lonsbury. Call now for tickets for above show at 519-461-1188.

**Oct. 16** - 8 p.m. Bluegrass Spectacular featuring Lou Reid and Carolina; also The Darrell Webb Band. Royal Canadian Legion, Burlington. Before Oct. 2 - \$30.00, after \$35.00. Ticket call Denis MacCarthy 905-984-4095.

**Peace River Band** - for upcoming appearances contact May Lou Fitzgerald, bookings 519-871-6360. [www.peaceriverband.com](http://www.peaceriverband.com)

**Oct. 16** - Celebration Benefit of Freedom Friends and Canadian Mental Health Assoc. at Stratford High School, 7 pm. Featuring Brett Naueal, Steve Pitocco, Debbie McLean, Kelly Schnick, Kevin Young, Dan Washburn, Bob Carruthers, Linsey Becket, Millpond and Bob Peters. For tickets call Greg or Shane 613-653-6535. email [vern@hotmail.com](mailto:vern@hotmail.com)

**Oct. 17** - Kendals Country Jamboree with live mic. Kendal. Also Nov. 14, Jan. 9 and Feb. 9. The Good Old Boys and Sidekicks performing the second Sat. of the month.

**Appearances by Kiley Joe Masson** - [www.kileyjoe.com](http://www.kileyjoe.com)

**Oct. 21** - East Central Ontario Bluegrass Raynard Acoustic Studio proudly present Spinney Brothers. Special guests - Jim Ward and Willowridge at Woodview Community Centre, 151 Cadillac Ave. N., Oshawa. Starts at 7 pm; doors open 6 pm; tickets \$20.00. Limited number available. For info 426-281-1189 or 705-928-4605. [spinneybrothers.com](http://spinneybrothers.com)

\* **Kitchen Party Music Jams:** The Kitchen Party Music Jams are exciting, free, music events held at numerous locations throughout central and southern Ontario. They are free for all musicians and fans and include country, bluegrass, folk/celtic and mixed acoustic music types. For further info re various locations and schedules or to receive the free monthly newsletters, contact Gerry Mitchell, [kitchenpartymusicjams@hotmail.com](mailto:kitchenpartymusicjams@hotmail.com)

\* **Jessica Weddon appearances:** contact [www.jessicawedden.ca](http://www.jessicawedden.ca) Jessica is a young fiddler, trick fiddling and step dancing.

\* **Jamborees:** Second Sunday of the month at Shelburne Community Centre; also Don Celsie, Orillia Legion, 1 p.m.; 4th Sunday of the month Dundalk; 3rd Tuesday Rosemount Jamboree; 4th Tuesday at Bond Head.

\* **Sun., Nov. 15** - 1 to 5 pm. Peterborough Lioness presents Just Plain Country, old time country show and dance, featuring Mr. Song Man, Mike McConnell. Other musical entertainment includes Bob Nelson, Jim Russel, Helen Tellier, Ray Jones and Diane Smith on harmonica. Peterborough Navel Club, 24 Whitlaw St. Tickets \$10 each. Call Joan Jones at 705-742-9771, or pick up at Rubidge Retirement Residence, 705-748-4000. All proceeds to the Christmas Hamper and other community projects.

\* **Appearances by Doreen Brown:** Oct. and Nov. 3rd Tuesday of the month - Rosemount Community Centre; 2nd Sunday - Shelburne Community Centre jamboree; 2nd Tuesday - Thornton Community Centre; 1st Sunday - Warminster.

\* **Barn Dance Shows** - Oct. 25, 2 pm, Hanover Civic Theatre, Hanover; Nov. 15, 2:30 pm, Brigden Fairgrounds, Brigden.

\* **Jam Nights** - at Beeton Legion 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, starts 8 pm, upstairs. Participants are asked to bring a musical instrument and a friend or two or just come and listen. Evening snacks are free, but donations are welcome, which would go to the

Beeton Lions community activities. Up to 16 musicians participate. Further info at 905-778-9597.

\* **Rhyme 'n' Reason** - for upcoming appearances of this bluegrass gospel band call 905-517-7478. Band leader Stefan Van Holten [banostef@aol.com](mailto:banostef@aol.com) or [rhymerreasonbluegrass.shutterfly.com](http://rhymerreasonbluegrass.shutterfly.com)

\* **Ron & Linda's Old Time Country Music** - Different bands weekly. Oddfellows Hall, 42 Bagot St., Brooklin. Every Friday night, 6:30 to 10:30. Light lunch at 8:30. Oct. 2 - Tom Sawyer and the Country Cougars also Gary Hooper; Oct. 9 - Classic Country; Oct. 15 - Clarence and Friends; Oct. 23 and Nov. 13 - Gary Hopper; Oct. 30 - Les White.

\* **Appearances by Gary Hopper** - Oct. 2, 23, Nov. 13 - Brooklin; Oct. 3, 24, Nov. 14 - Black Dog Restaurant, Tauton Rd., New Castle.

\* **Moose Lodge:** 731 Wilson Rd. S., Oshawa. Country music and dancing featuring Gary Hooper, Sun., Oct. 18, 1 to 5 p.m., \$10. per person at the door. Open Mic 3 to 5 pm. Includes cold buffet lunch, door prize and spot dance. 50/50 draw, cash bar. For info call Gary Hooper 905-852-6113.

\* **Thicker than Water** - For upcoming appearance, live music, various styles, call Russ Gordon 905-263-2800.

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# BARN DANCE CORNER

by Peter Saros

Fall forces us to face change.

It is a season of transition and preparation. A time to lay up in stores for ourselves a good foundation for the future and against the time to come. The many fall harvest festivals across Ontario speak practically to this time of readiness.

For many though, isolation and loneliness come with the short days and long nights. We know something harsher is in store for us if in nothing more than just the weather. It isn't an easy time of year even though it is a beautiful time of year.

What can cut through this nagging sense of dread and anxiety? Why, country music and community of course.

On his 1999 album *A Man Ain't Made of Stone* Randy Travis recorded a song titled "The Family Bible and The Farmer's Almanac." Just to prove that country music always has currency, I

paraphrased the bible earlier, country music is currently being discussed, and I'm fixin' to reference the Farmer's Almanac now.

The 2016 edition of *The Almanac For Farmers and City Folk* has a lovely story about a gardener and some geese. It is a lesson in community. A flock of wild geese resist their urgent need to migrate while waiting for one goose who had its wings clipped by a gardener who wanted to keep one of the flock as a pond decoration. The other geese patiently wait for feathers of the goose clipped by the gardener to grow enough to permit him to fly. Once ready, the entire flock takes to the air together and continue on their journey. The author says, "Those geese offer a profound reminder that we all need the help of a community. When we are hurting and in need of support, it is our community that can deliver healing and encouragement."

The Barn Dance community is its own family. It provides hope and health for so many. Barn Dance performances provide an opportunity to experience traditional country music, a time to re-

member. The many events put on by The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum encourage participation. That sharing in sentimental nostalgia is a tonic to many who feel alienated or left behind by an increasingly unfamiliar larger Nashville country music industry. The Barn Dance feels like home, familiar and safe.

I like to think *The Barn Dance Opera Journal* also offers hope in the bleak mid-winter. While reading it, thoughts might turn to coming summer festivals and warmer weather. Readers know the music brings musicians together, and what results are lasting friendships which grow that community we so value.

And so turns that unbroken circle of community, which first rolled in 1937, that continues to heal and encourage future generations.

Think of this as we watch the leaves turn and fall while we lay up our stores of memories and music.

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