



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

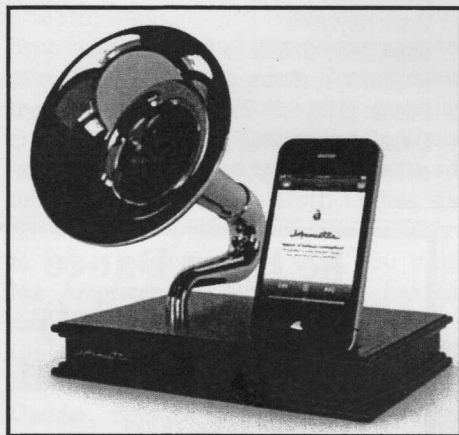
Vol. 96 2018

Spring Edition

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WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY COUNTRY MUSIC?

Musical Evolution



by Grant Heywood

When it comes to listening to music, everybody has their preference and they'll tell you why they think it is the best. Nowadays, that's kind of hard to determine with so many genres of music being watered down or influenced by other styles. Many folks begrudgingly say "music ain't like it was in the old days". That may be true... but not totally.

Since music became a commodity (first via radio and then other media sources), it has evolved since those early days of radio. In the late 1800's into the 1900's, before radio, rural folks would have square dances with mainly fiddle, banjo, and guitar in local barns. Thus the barn dance was created and still continues in remote areas of the U.S.A. By 1922, there were over 600 radio stations in the U.S. Radio had now become the new voice for music.

The jazz age became popular in the 1920's, along with ragtime and swing. Many parents said this music was immoral at the time, not unlike what they said about rock and roll in the 1960's. The 1930's spawned big band and swing music which spilled into the 1940's along with jazz, latin and the dawn of country music. Many of the singers of the big

bands like Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra, carved out a crooner style that lasted well into the 60's and even 70's. In the 50's, there was country, cowboy, rockabilly, doo wop, r & b, blues, swing, pop, and the birth of rock and roll.

As you can see, since the 1920's, the evolution of music has grown from a few styles of music, to a multitude of styles and genres. Think what it must have been like for Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, or Buddy Holly when they began to evoke black music in their style of playing, at a time when there was segregation. When Buddy Holly first recorded his music, the studio producer wouldn't even allow him to have drums on the recording. Buddy refused and some of the drumming was done on a cardboard box. Undoubtedly, Hank Williams was huge in the 1950's and Patsy Cline was popular as well. I say popular, because Patsy was really a pop singer who adopted Nashville.

Of course, the 1960's heralded the new folk era, rock & roll got louder and rock bands became popular because of the Beatles success with the British invasion. Country music surged in the 60's and with horn arrangements, Buck Owens and the Bakersfield sound, 'Gentleman' Jim Reeves and the Nashville sound. 1960's country music was really a marriage of bluegrass, folk, blues, pop, rockabilly and anything else that it adopted along the way. Nashville became anchored as the country music capital where you went to make hit records.

The 1970's was the dawn of 'Outlaw Country'. Artists we've grown to love over the years like, Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash, George Jones, Waylon Jennings, Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson, and others. Rock and roll also had an outlaw period that same decade, called punk rock. If you've read this far, you are a death sea-

ing how music genres 'cross over' into each other to spawn a totally new style of music. We get ticked off because the music we used to love isn't as available or popular as it once was. Quite frankly, it's still around, it has just morphed into something else.

Most people don't like change, but think of how people felt in the 1960's & 70's when they couldn't hear Hank Williams, Bob Wills, The Carter Family or The Louvin Bros. anymore on radio. I think you get the idea. Each generation has a certain style of music they gravitate towards during their decade or two of growing up, and today isn't any different. Many of the Grammy Awards this year were given out to Rap & Hip-Hop artists. For the first time, this genre has surpassed Rock and makes up for 25% of music consumption. In fact, 7 of the top 10 albums of the year were Rap & Hip-Hop music, and it is now the most popular music in the world. The times they are a changin'.

As I have said before, if you want to hear traditional country music as it used to be, there are radio stations that cater to just that style. 'New Country' was the phrase used back in the mid 80's, which extended into the 90's. This is when country music saw a giant leap into the mainstream. Spearheaded by the likes of Randy Travis, and followed by Dwight Yoakam, Sawyer Brown, George Strait, Rodney Crowell, Reba McEntire, The Judds, Patty Loveless, Diamond Rio, and countless others, this music really wasn't that much different since being influenced by folk, Bakersfield, blues and rock and roll. I don't remember anyone saying that country music was worse off or tainted. It was just a little different. With state of the art production in the studio and on stage,

The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



I hope everyone enjoyed this past winter. The best thing about this past winter is just that... it's in the past. My snowblower broke down just when I was cleaning up snow from the last major storm of the winter. Good timing I guess, but I'll still have to get it fixed for next winter which is months away yet.

Many of the major entertainment awards shows take place over the winter and spring. The Oscars were in March and the Grammy Awards in February. As you may already know, I am not a big fan of awards shows. If you knew how they operated you might feel the same way I do. Let's just say that the politics of awards shows don't really show a true perspective of the huge talent pool and the voting system should really be re-vamped.

I did take note of this year's Grammy Awards and I was surprised for the first time that most of the popular music categories were mainly rap and hip-hop music. Wow, how times have changed. It's hard to relate when just 15 or so years ago there weren't so many sub-genres' of music. Categories for rock used to be contemporary rock, hard rock, classic rock, heavy metal, grunge rock, alternative rock, punk, etc. Country music has now become bro country, alternative country, roots country, neotraditional country, Americana, outlaw, cow-punk, country-soul crossover and any other mixture I haven't yet identified. The lines have been blurred and it's very difficult to identify with just one particular style or category of music anymore. I guess that's why so many folks I know appreciate blues or bluegrass music. It's stays pretty much true to form and hasn't changed or merged with other kinds of music as much.

For those who have satellite television and radio, you'll know what I'm talking about. The

sheer number of different styles and sub-genres' of music stations boggle the mind. I understand why people don't like change, but I personally believe that too much choice isn't always a good thing, but that's just my opinion. Of course, this revelation of change didn't just happen overnight. It has been an ongoing process for quite some time. The digital age is partially responsible when compact discs soon took over vinyl record sales. They were convenient and at that time many said that cd's were superior in sound to vinyl. Funny though how vinyl has now enjoyed a mini-revival recently.

The real harm came when the information highway (the internet) became available to everyone, and the computer age really took off in leaps and bounds. People began downloading music for free and burning their own cd copies. We all know this is illegal (and impossible to enforce), and likely never think of the irreparable harm this does to hard working musicians, who's costs include studio time, hiring musicians, production, mixing, mastering, cd cover art, liner notes and the actual cost of manufacturing the cd's. This cost can vary from a minimum of \$10,000, upwards to \$50,000 and more. I realize almost everyone has re-recorded or burnt a cd copy before, but it doesn't help musicians when all they really want to do is get their music heard, and break even on their investment.

Musical categories have become so varied and music has virtually become an almost free commodity, that becoming a musician today is an extremely 'high risk', career. Cd's are now a tool equivalent to a business card. YouTube videos are a means to getting popular by the number of 'likes' they receive. Recording contracts are a thing of the past. Superstardom is relegated to only a handful and are often over-produced, pitch corrected to mask any talent that may or may not even exist. Many of the music stars we remember are dead, dying or retiring.

But all is not lost. If you spend the time to find 'real music' on the airwaves, internet or otherwise. It is out there and it's alive and kicking. Not just new music, but much of the music you remember. Some of it may take a different direction or form, but it borrows from the music we used to know and love from yesteryear. I've

heard it myself and have bought many new cd's of different artists I've come to appreciate.

Vintage music is like a fine wine. You never get tired of it and your ears respond to it like an old friend. It is comfortable and makes you remember of a time when music just made you feel good. That's the feeling you get when you attend a Barn Dance Show. Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance is like a time machine, as MC Jim Swan always says. Hope to see you at the next Barn Dance.

Comments? Please contact:

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or send a message on facebook.

The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment

Museum

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www.thebardance.ca

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2018 COMING EVENTS

| Date | Event Name | Place |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Sun., March 25 | Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m. | Listowel Agricultural Hall, Listowel |
| Sun., April 15 | Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m. | Fundraiser - Knights of Columbus K of C Hall, Walkerton |
| Sun. May 6 | Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m. | Purple Hill Country Hall, Thorndale |
| Thurs.-Sun. May 24 - 27 | Annual Campout Jamoree | Blyth Arena and Campgrounds, Blyth |
| Sun. June 10 | Barn Dance Show - 3:00 p.m. | Commercial Tavern, Maryhill |

Continued from Page 1

country was 'kickin' ass'.

With new media sources such as live streaming, satellite tv & radio, mobile apps, internet radio & tv, media stick or cd, our way of listening to music has changed dramatically. It has been a great tool for live musicians to get their music out but live music is still struggling, especially smaller venues. I personally, would rather see newer or up and coming artists in a smaller venue than to watch big name artists on a screen at a live concert somewhere in the nosebleed seats.

I still listen to radio occasionally, but I have enjoyed the evolution of music styles over the past 50 or so years. Current country music radio doesn't really turn my crank although there are some exceptional artists if you listen long enough, or sift through the disposable stuff. Oldies stations are always a comfort when you want to relive memories. Say what you want, but Americana or Roots music has become my favourite genre to listen to. Artists like, Jim Lauderdale, Lucinda Williams, Gillian Welch, Lumineers, Ry Cooder, Shovels & Rope, Lyle Lovett, Steve Earle, Buddy Miller, Son Volt, Drive By Truckers, T-Bone Burnett, The Deraillers, Mumford & Sons, The Sheepsdogs, Eliza Gilkyson, Daniel Romano, Jamestown Revival, Jesse Dayton and so many, many more. You should give it a listen if you really want to have a refreshing audio experience.

Americana music in my opinion, is the evolution of music that reflects everything I appreciate, bluegrass, rock, blues, folk, country, jazz, and r & b. These are the musical styles I can identify with over the years, and to find them all mixed together in a new format is exciting to the ears. When I was about 20 years old, I embraced country, bluegrass, rock & roll, hard rock, folk and jazz, and it broadened my musical horizons and influenced my songwriting. I'll admit I'm not into rap and hip-hop, and I understand why it has spilled over into country. It's all about being relevant, but actually more about gaining a new audience and making money. That's okay, because with me, it's really all about the music. And when it comes to musical genres, there really are only two kinds of music... GOOD or BAD. It's

WHO REMEMBERS THIS?

by Grant Heywood

*As the years go by, we start to take things for granted. This is a new column for the Barn Dance Opera Journal where I reminisce about paraphernalia, or for lack of a better word, **stuff**. From days gone by.*

Until music was recorded, folks would go to bandshell concerts, performance theatres, or just sit around the house with the family while Uncle Joe played fiddle, aunt Susie played guitar, and maybe a cousin on banjo. That's the way it was in the 'old days', that is until people were able to afford a piano. A piano was indeed a luxury in the late 1800's, but soon became mass produced enough to make it cheaper for the average person to afford in the early 1900's.

It wasn't long until piano's became commonplace in many homes. This often became the centerpiece where families would often gather to sing hymns and popular songs of the time, as well as providing an instrument to learn on. This provided employment not only for piano companies, but piano tuners, movers, music teachers, and sheet music companies. Before the piano, many churches and some homes would have a pump organ that was operated by two foot pedals that blew air through bellows, forcing it through organ reeds to make the organ heard. Many of these organs were very ornate pieces of furniture. We actually had one in our house that came from a funeral home in Zurich, Ontario.

Heintzman pianos were built in Toronto, Ont. and were known as the Steinway of Canadian pianos. Sherlock Manning pianos (originally Doherty Piano & Organ), actually started manufacturing pianos circa 1910 in Goderich, Ontario before moving to London, Ontario. This continued until 1930 when they also began production of pianos in Clinton, Ontario until 1970. That's when

Heintzman bought them out. During the 1st and 2nd World Wars, women were hired as trainees at the London (and later Clinton) plant, and were paid the same as the male employees. From 1978 - '80 they moved production to Hanover, Ontario and back to Clinton from approx. 1980 until 1989 when they ceased production.

Woodstock, Ontario produced pianos under the D.W. Karn name from 1873 until 1924. The Morris Piano Company Ltd., also from Woodstock, manufactured pianos from 1892 until 1908 when a fire broke out and burned the structure to the ground. They re-built and continued making pianos until 1924. The Bell Piano Co. in Quebec, operated from 1900 until 1924 when they folded. They made one of the best quality upright pianos at that time, as did LeSage from Quebec. In fact, the quality of most Canadian pianos was so high in the early 1900's, Canada only imported a few 'high end' pianos such as Steinway of New York.

I believe piano production declined when the phonograph was introduced. Once radio stations broadcasted music, and phonographs were readily available, piano production slipped further. Then guitars became popular in the 1950's & 1960's, and electric pianos and organs were in vogue, the piano began a steep decline. Besides Germany & U.S.A., it wasn't long until the acoustic piano was mass produced in Japan, Korea, and China under names like Yamaha, Kawai and others. The new age of pianos arrived. Now many pianos are also digitized and can play piano, organ, strings, voices and even vibraphone. That's all well and nice, but you still have to learn, and know how to play. Some of Canada's most famous piano players are, Glenn Gould, Oscar Peterson, Diana Krall, Andre' Gagnon, and Oliver Jones.

LEGENDARY COUNTRY MUSIC PERFORMER RONNIE PROPHET PASSES AWAY AT 80

"Ronnie Prophet is the best one man show I've ever seen"- Chet Atkins (Thanks to CKNX Radio host, John Marshall of Blackburn Radio Group, for this article)

Tavares, FL (March 2nd, 2018) – Ronald Lawrence Victor Prophet - country singer, musician and comedian, who charted 23 singles from 30 albums in a career that spanned 60 years, died with loving family and friends at his side on Friday, March 2 at age 80 following cardiac and kidney failure. Survived by his wife of 32 years, Glory Anne Carriere Prophet, sons Tony (Kitty) Prophet, Vancouver, BC, Jimmy (Emily) Prophet, Nashville, TN, step children Rhonda (Bill) Paisley, Nanaimo, BC, Warren (Lesa) Carriere, Regina, SK, Tamara Greer, Estevan, SK and 12 grandchildren - Justin, Joey, Jake and Patrick Prophet, Josh and Victoria Paisley, Meagan and Stephanie Carriere, and Brooklyn, Ryan and James Greer.

His long time friend and Agent of 38 years Paul Mascioli commented "Ronnie was an international star who transcended all boundaries with his big heart and superb showmanship. He was a working man's entertainer and loved by people of all ages. We'll truly miss him but never forget him".

The versatile Ronnie Prophet was not only a country music singer, but also a gifted impressionist, an entertaining storyteller, and an emcee. He was born in Calumet, Quebec, the youngest of three children. As a musician, he began playing square dances throughout the province. He immigrated to the U.S. in



Dec. 26, 1937- Mar. 2, 2018

1966, wintering in the Bahamas and performing at the Jack Tar Hotel. The Ronnie Prophet Waiting Room at St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis came about as a result of his performances and charity work with Danny Thomas, Perry Como and Frankie Valli. Soon he began playing at Boots Randolph's Carousel Club, in Nashville, which later became Ronnie Prophet's Carousel Club. In the early 1970s, he made his television debut on the long-running CBC series The Tommy Hunter Show. Eventually he had his own show, which ran until 1981. He next hosted Grand Old Country on the CTV network and the British series Ronnie Prophet Entertains. In 1975, Prophet made his recording debut when his first hit single "Sanctuary" made the Top 30 and was quickly followed by three more charted hits. Over the next 40 years he continued to appear on television and toured inter-

nationally throughout the United States, Canada, the UK, and New Zealand as well as with the USO in Europe. In 1997, he and his singing partner/wife Glory Anne moved to Branson, MO, and performed there in various theaters until their retirement in 2015, after which they settled down in sunny Tavares, FL.

Ronnie was laid to rest at Avoca Cemetery near his farm home in Quebec.

Ronnie Prophet Awards and recognition

1978: Winner, Juno Award, Country Male Vocalist of the Year

1979: Winner, Juno Award, Country Male Vocalist of the Year

1980: Nominee, Juno Award, Country Male Vocalist of the Year

1984: Winner Canadian Country Music Duo of the Year with Glory-Anne Carriere

1984: Winner Canadian Country Music Entertainer of the Year

1985: Ottawa Valley Country Music Hall of Fame

1987: Nominee, Juno Award, Country Male Vocalist of the Year

1999: Inductee, Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame

2015: Pioneer Award – The Terry Awards, Branson, MO

2018: Honorary Doctorate Of Music – Antioch College & University of Missouri

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

Barn Dance Historical Society Annual General Meeting

Monday, April 2nd at 7 p.m.
At David Carson Farms & Auction Services Ltd. 5531, Perth Line Hwy. 86 Listowel, Ontario.

Local Country Music Radio Choices:

♪ **CKNX 920 A.M. Radio,** Wingham, Ont.

Host: John Marshall 2 – 5:30 p.m. Mainly Classic Country.

♪ **CJDL 107.3 F.M. Radio,** Tillsonbug, Ont.

Host: Randy Owen 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. New & Classic Country

♪ **Erin Community Radio 91.7 online.** Erin, Ont.

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COUNTRY MUSIC BANDS EQUIPMENT LIST THEN AND NOW

Required Onstage Instrumentation

1940 - 1960

1. Electric guitar.
2. Upright bass.
3. Lap Steel guitar.
4. Acoustic guitar.
5. Fiddle or two.
6. Piano.
7. Banjo, autoharp, mandolin or harmonica.

Required Onstage Instrumentation

1960 - 1970

1. Gretsch or Fender guitar.
2. Electric bass guitar.
3. Acoustic guitar (Martin)
4. Fiddle.
5. Pedal steel guitar.
6. Piano
7. Drums.

Required Onstage Instrumentation

1970 - 1980

1. Fender telecaster guitar.
2. Acoustic guitar (Japanese or American made)
3. Electric bass guitar.
4. Pedal steel guitar.
5. Maybe fiddle.
6. Keyboards.
7. Drums

Required Onstage Instrumentation

1980 - 2000

1. Fender Telecaster guitar.
2. Acoustic guitar.
3. Electric bass guitar.
4. Pedal steel guitar.
5. Maybe fiddle.
6. Drums.
7. Keyboards.

Required Onstage Instrumentation

2000 - 2018

1. Electric guitar (Fender Telecaster or Gibson Les Paul preferred, or both, or any cool looking electric guitar.)
2. Electric bass guitar, standup bass, or keyboard bass.
3. Keyboards and/or Synthesizer.
4. Acoustic guitar (any make will do.)
5. Pedal steel guitar. (used sparingly, or not at all.)
6. Fiddle, banjo, mandolin, washboard, (or any odd or old instrument to keep them guessing.)
7. Drums, & maybe even congas.
8. Pitch correction device on all microphones.

BARN DANCE SOUVENIRS

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Souvenir Mugs - | \$ 5.00 ea. |
| CD - Vol. 1 | \$15.00 ea. |
| CD - Vol. 2 | \$15.00 ea. |
| CD - Vol. 3 | \$15.00 ea. |
| CD - Vol. 1, 2 & 3 | \$40.00 set |
| Cassette - Vol. 1 | \$ 6.00 ea. |
| Cassette - Vol. 2 | \$ 6.00 ea. |
| Cassette - Vol. 3 | \$ 6.00 ea. |
| Souvenir 1997 Calendar | \$ 5.00 ea. |
| Barn Dance Logo T-Shirts (gold logo on blue only) Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL | \$20.00 ea. |
| NEW Heywood Family Three Generations CD | \$20.00 ea. |
| NEW Al Cherny CD - "Live / The Lost Recordings" | \$15.00 ea. |
| NEW Eleanor & Graham Townsend CD "The Talented Townsends" (36 unheard recordings) | \$15.00 ea. |
| Best of The Barn Dance CD | \$15.00 ea. |

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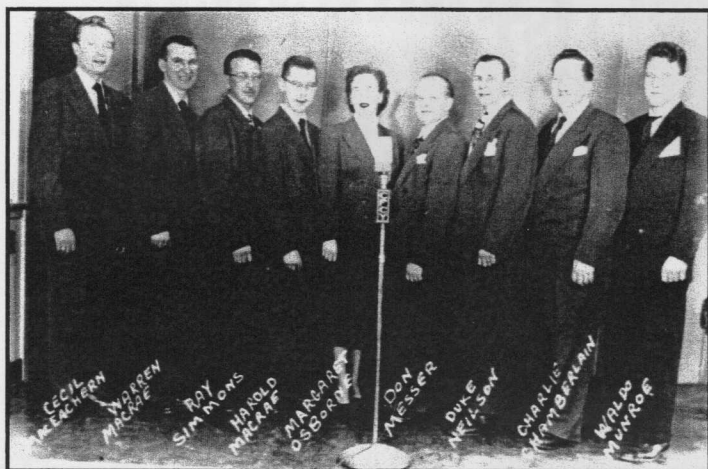


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COUNTRY MUSIC MEMORIES



An early picture of The Don Messer Band. From left to right - Cecil MacEachern, Warren MacRae, Ray Simmons, Harold MacRae, Margaret Osborne, Don Messer, Duke Neilson, Charlie Chamberlain, Waldo Munroe.



The CKNX Ranch Boys performing onstage (mid 1950's). From left to right - Fiddler, Archie Mann, Guitar, Ernie King, Bass, Don Robertson, Accordion, Reg Bitton, & Fiddler, Ross Mann,



A Barn Dance performance with Bill Mankiss on accordion, Ernie King on guitar, & Vic Pasowisty on fiddle. (early 1990's)



Barn Dance Pioneer, Clarke Johnston, The Singing Irishman,

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Sunday

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AT 1:00PM

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July 21, 2019

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Registration open at 11:30 or preregister at
www.brusselsfiddlejamboree.ca

COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown
(Toronto and surrounding area)

- * **April 4, May 2 and June 6 Oshawa/Whitby Old Time Fiddle Club Jamboree/Dance** – Located at 589 Water St. Whitby, ON at the Haydendore Pavilion. Starts at 6:15pm. For more information, call Marg at 905-728-6646.
- * **April 8, May 6 and June 10 Jam Session/Dance** – At the arena upstairs, in Shelburne, ON. Starts at 1pm. No supper. For more information, call 905-925-3037.
- * **April 12, May 10, June 7 Barrie/Thornton Fiddle Club, Jam/Dance** – At the arena upstairs in Thornton, ON. Starts at 7pm. For more information, call 705-436-3328.
- * **April 14 appearances by Whiskey Jack performing stories and songs of Stompin' Tom** – Gorgeous theatre in Port Colborne from 8pm – 11pm. For more information contact Duncan Fremlin at 416-716-3257.
- * **April 14 appearances by Wolfe Milestone** – From 8pm – 12 pm at the Army Navy Airforce on Third St. Mississauga, ON. April 22 at The Moose Lodge, 27 and Lakeshore, back by popular demand for an afternoon of fun.
- * **April 15, May 13, June 17 Carden Fiddlers Jam Session/Dance** – At the Community Centre in Lake Dalrymple. Starts at 1pm. For more information call 705-325-0009.
- * **April 19, May 17, June 14 Jam Session/Dance** – At the Community Centre in Holland Landing, ON. Starts at 7pm. Call for more information at 905-473-7072.
- * **April 20, May 18, June 15 Hogtown Hoedown Square Dance** – At the Dovercourt House, 805 Dovercourt Rd. Toronto, ON. Starts at 8pm. For more information, email hogtown-hoedown@gmail.com.
- * **Apr 22, May 27, June 24 Fiddle Jam/Dance** – In Manilla, ON at the Community Hall. Starts at 1pm. For more information call 705-357-3637.
- * **April 22, May 27, June 24 Jam Session/Dance** – In Dundalk, ON at the RCL. Starts at 1pm. Roast beef supper at 4:30pm. For more information call 519-941-3406.
- * **April 24, May 22, June 26 Bond head fiddle club Jam Session/Dance** – At the Community Hall, Junction HWY 27 and 88. Starts at 7pm. For more information call 519-941-2134.
- * **April 25, May 23, June 27 Old Time Fiddle Club Jam Session/Dance** – In Port Perry, ON at Scugog Community Centre on Reach St., Port Perry. Starts at 6:45pm. For more information call 905-985-7557.
- * **April 27 Russel Decarlo** – Hugh's Room at 2261 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6R 1X6. To reserve tickets, call 416-533-5483. Doors open 6 pm, performance starts at 8:30pm.
- * **April 28, May 26, June 23 Fiddle Jam/Dance** – In Donneyville, ON at St Luke's Hall. Starts at 7pm. For more information call 705-799-0004.
- * **May 13 Mother's Day Special** – Showtime at 2pm, at the Canadian Country Showband welcomes the yodeling cowgirl Naomi Bristow, Kylie Joe Masson, Brent Jones and Stacey Zegers. From Quiet Earth Studios; Greg Williams, Havelock talent search champion and Purple Hill's Heath Taylor. \$40/person.
- * **May 19 - 8th Annual Arthur Frances Delaney Memorial Fundraiser** – In support of Iahan Anderson House, at Royal Canadian Legion, 456 Hensall Circle, Mississauga, ON. Call 905-277-2902 for more details. \$15.00/person. John Gerard, Delaney and brother Micky and The Roadhouse Boys, present a Harry Hibb's tribute.
- * **May 19 at the Roxy Theatre from 8pm – 11pm** – 251 9th St. E., Owen Sound. May 26 from 8pm – 11pm at the Fergus Grand Theatre, 244 St. Andrew St. W., Fergus, ON. For more information call 519-787-1981. June 16 at 7pm. Celebration Plaza, Memorial Park, 45 Hardy St., Tillsonburg, ON.
- * **May 24 – 27 - Annual Barn Dance** Historical Society, Box 68, Wingham, ON N0G 2W0, call 519-533-8000 or online www.thebardance.ca. Blyth campground presents a w/e of music fun, enjoying entertainment, chatting with old and new

friends. Friday and Saturday night shows and gospel show on Sunday. Friday at 1p.m jam upstairs. Please check our website listed here for more information. Special guest star, Michael T. Wall, the singing New Foundlander, singing songs that made him a household name will be on the Saturday night show. Michael's first vinyl album is in the Nashville County Music Hall of Fame Library.

- * **June 16 Old Time Dance, Square and Round Dancing and Open Mic** – At 4:30pm Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 238 in Fenelon Falls. Call 705-887-3041 for more details.
- * **June 15- 17 The 35th Annual Tottenham Bluegrass Festival** – Phone 647-209-2593 or online at www.tottenhambluegrass.ca. Headliner: Rhonda Vincent & The Rage. Also appearing: sweetgrass band hometown bluegrass; Beeton Creek Rising, Remington Ryde, The Tebworth Brothers, Feller & Hill and the bluegrass buckaroos Eddie Leblanc and friends and more. Advance tickets available until June 5 for \$100.00, regular price is \$125.00. The children's talent show is on Saturday at 1pm.
- * **June 23 Barra Macneils** – Performing at Hugh's room, 2261 Dundas St. W. Toronto. ON M6R 1X6. Doors open 6pm performance starts at 8:30pm.
- * **June 29 Lakefield Country Jamboree** – Call for more information 705-760-3583. No line up at this time.
- * **July 6 - 9 12th Annual Hollyrood Country Jamboree** – 901 Harmony Rd., Belleville, ON. Email hollyrood901@hotmail.com or go online at www.hollyroodjamboree.com or call 613-967-9951. Line up as follows: Cathy Korpi, Dennis Whitty, Ginny McLmoye, Harold McIntyre, Kirk Bates, Tim Peters, Chris Cummings, Fred Lewis, Greg Williams, Justin Cooper, Teas Tuxedo and more to be announced. Open mic on Fri/Sat.
- * **July 6 - 9 River Valley Country and Bluegrass** – Call 705-758-9049 for more information.
- * **July 7 - 9 Fox Hollow Bluegrass and Old Country** – Call 905-431-7511 for more information.
- * **July 12 - 15 The 24th Valley Bluegrass Festival** – No line up at this time. For more information, go online at www.valleybluegrass.ca or call 613-432-9084.
- * **July 12 - 15 - 10th Annual Norwood Country Jamboree** – 48 Alma St., Norwood Fair Grounds. Call 1-800-954-9998 or 705-741-6097 or email info@norwoodcountryjamboree.com or go online at www.norwoodcountryjamboree.com. Tickets sold at Kawartha Battery in Peterborough, Wilson Tire in Lindsay, Norwood Home Hardware, Cook's Barber Shop in Marmora. Line up as follows; Thurs, July 12, Mike Pollard, David Bryski, Kevin Young, The Outlaws featuring Bob Gill as Waylon Jennings and Guy Melanson as Willie Nelson. Fri, July 13, Justine Blanchet, Chuck Simms, Rick Loucks, James Ryce, Top Shelf. July 14, Jade Eagleson, Nicholas Campbell, Gord Barnes, Hector Sturgeon and Jamie McMunn (son of the late well known Ron McMun).
- * **July 15 Old Time Square Dancing** – Gospel Hour with Louise Wright, George Potter and the Percy Swingers. Breakfast served Fri., Sat., Sun. by the Lion's Club. Dinner served Fri. and Sat. by Taylor's Custom Meats and Catering. Shuttle from site to building.
- * **July 26 - 29, Annual Pickin' in the Park, in Shelburne, ON.** – Call Greg or Heather Holmes at 519-925-3037. Bring your musical instruments for a weekend of music and fellowship or for the day. Bring chairs and sun hat. Beauty contest Fri. night. Ice cream social Sat. Country music all w/e. Trail trash yard sale from truck of vehicle Sat. morning. Go online at www.pickininthepark.webs.com for more details.
- * **Aug 2 - 5 27th Annual Classic Country Music Reunion** – Has moved from Trenton to Beaverton Fairgrounds, TWP of Brock in the region of Durham. The Beaverton Fairgrounds are situated on the shore of Lake Simcoe and the venue features an abundance of level grass field with shade trees to accommodate camping guests. An arena to host both main stage and open mic. So inclement weather will no longer impact shows and plenty of dance floor. Beaverton is walking distance to shopping, restaurants, groceries, etc. Line up not available at this time. Go online at www.classiccountrysmusicreunion.com for more. Note; the writer of this column may have the line up/ brochures during our May campout in Blyth.
- * **Advance notice for Aug. 18 – 20 - Purple Hill's Bluegrass Opry Reunion**, a weekend of camping. It's all about bluegrass and great Canadian talent. Early bookings, just 5 miles east of London, vendors on site, great food, large tent for your comfort, entertainment, The Allen Family Reunion Band, Rescue Junction, The Stompin' Flyers, Winterline, and The Nissouri Boys. Watch for more additions.
- * **Aug 16-19 Annual Havelock Country Jamboree** – Phone 1-800-539-3353. Over 25 entertainers performing, four day festival. Line up at this time as follows; Doc Walker, Charlie

Major, Toby Keith, Greg Williams, Ivan Hicks, Tanya Tucker, JJ Shiplett, The Good Bros. To Be Announced; Shania Twin. For further line up check website www.havelockcountryjamboree.com.

- * **Aug 30 - Sept 2 14th Annual Apple Country Jamboree** – Keeler Centre, 80 Division St., Colborne, ON. Contact host Gary Warner at 905-355-110 or email gwarner@eagle.ca or Linda Grills at 905-372-6492 or email lgrills@applecountryjamboree.ca. Line up for early bird show Aug 28 and 29; Moe Bandy, Mike and Yvan. The following are Aug 30 - Sept 2; Brian Moon, Andy Bouchard, Arnold Trudeau, Anita Bird, Bruce Forsythe. A.C.J. Main Stage Band, Bill Lintner, Cheryl Adrain, Carol Renaud, Tamara Franke, Jan McCambley, Tammy Wood and Stephen Drinkwater, Naomi Bristow, Angie Austin, The Canadian Farwell Party Band, Michael Arren, Paul Wasson, Rick Amair, Jeannie Mintz, Percy Kinney. Open mic as well as Steve Smith, Tim Saunders open mic band. Catering by Taylor's Custom Meats and Catering.
 - * **Appearances by Linda Wells and Derek Pilgrim as follows** – Apr 22, at Caven's Alley 585 Lakeshore Rd. E. Mississauga, ON from 8pm-12am. Apr 28, At the Army Navy Airforce, 765 Third St. W. from 8pm-12am. May 12, the Fairbanks in Dufferin and Eglinton, ON, from 8pm-12am. May 26, at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 11, 9 Dawes Rd. 7:30-11:30. May 28, at the Army, Navy, Airforce, 765 Third St. W. 27, at Caven's Alley, 585 Lakeshore Rd. E, Mississauga, ON. June 24, at Caven's Alley, 585 Lakeshore Rd. E, Mississauga, ON.
 - * **First Sunday of the month** – Warminster Dance at 1 pm. Contact Cathy Hummel at 705-327-8078.
 - * **Every Thursday, Old Time Seniors Dance** – In Barrie, ON at Parkview Seniors Centre, 189 Blake St. Starts at 1:30pm. Set band, not a jam. For more information call 705-737-0755.
 - * **Every Tuesday, Square Dance** – In Katrine, ON. at the Community Centre, from 7pm - 9pm. For more information call 705-636-7019.
 - * **Upcoming events at Purple Hill** – Call 519-461-0538 or go online www.purplehillcountryhall.com or www.facebook.com/purplehillcountryhall. Sunday June 3, "the queen of country music" showtime at 2pm, Carroll Baker and The Baker Street Band. Carroll will be singing all of her top hits and everyone's favourite gospel songs. Roast beef and chicken dinner included following the show. Only 45.00/person.
 - * **Just Past the Pines Country and Bluegrass Music Jamboree, usually in June** – Check their website at info@justpastthepines.com. A place for family and friends to enjoy a weekend full of music. Phone 613-363-3308 or 613-396-2132.
 - * **Country Music Appearances** – At Lily's Sports Bar and Grill, 1381 Lakeshore Rd., Mississauga, ON. Call 905-274-4400 for more information.
 - * **Additional upcoming events Purple Hill Country Opry** – April 8, springtime at the Opry. Showtime at 2pm. Duo Chelsea Crites and Cory Cruise from Nova Scotia, singer and songwriter Ryan Cook, and everyone's favourite Crystal Gage. Roast beef and chicken dinner included following the show. \$40.00/person. - May 6, The Barn Dance Society. Showtime at 2pm. Returns to the Opry stage, Jim Swan and an all star line up of Paul Weber from Maryhill, great step dancer and fiddler, Lindsey Beckett, recording artists Murray Williams and Paul Newell, with the incredible singing voice of Brittany Brodie. \$40.00/person.
 - * **Appearances by Doreen Brown** – April 17 Rec Centre in Alliston, Fiddle/Jam, Dance from 7pm - 10:30pm. (previously the Rosemont Jamboree) 25 Seniors Jam from 1:30pm – 3:30pm. Rec Centre in Alliston, 24 bond head fiddle club. May 24-27; 21st Annual Blyth Campout, Barn Dance Show. June 15 - 17, the Tottenham Bluegrass Show, judging on children's talent show. July 12-15, Norwood Country Jamboree, Norwood, ON. July 26 - 29 Annual Pickin' in the Park, Shelburne, ON. Aug 2 - 5; 27th Annual Country Music Reunion, new address, Beaverton Fairgrounds, Township of Brock, Region of Durham; Aug 30 - Sept 2 - 14th Annual Apple Country Jamboree.
- Some of the jamborees/entertainers did not have line ups. Also have listed later ones for those who wish to book their jamborees in advance. Looking forward to seeing many at some of the jamborees will be at our annual Blyth Campout in May. Thanking all who contribute to our country/bluegrass music. All your support is truly appreciated and have a super great summer.*

BARN DANCE CORNER

by Peter Saros

Two cities, one Canadian and one American, commonly vie for the claim of making the first North American commercial radio broadcast.

On May 20, 1920 Canada's XWA – the call letters appropriately standing for “experimental wireless apparatus” – broadcasts a musical program from Montreal to Ottawa, where the Royal Society of Canada is meeting at the Chateau Laurier Hotel. At least three things are noteworthy about this pioneering Canadian broadcast. The first is that XWA was the first radio station anywhere to be granted a broadcast license; that license was issued on December 1, 1919. Secondly, the intended audience of that initial commercial broadcast tells a lot about who was producing and listening to the emerging technology of radio at the time. Membership in the The Royal Society of Canada was by election only. This elite cultural institution was created by the Governor General of Canada, and dedicated to promote national scientific research and development. The third is that the musical program was a vocal performance by Dorothy Lutton. Radio was very much a rich man's game at this point, though Dutton did perform an early 19th century Irish folk ballad titled “Believe Me if All Those Endearing Young Charms.” Those generous in spirit might receive that as a subtle sign of

things to come in terms of country music and radio. But we aren't there quite yet.

The U.S. claim to the first commercial broadcast comes no closer to the ground with its content. KDKA, out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, broadcast the results of the 1920 presidential election – the first election held after the end of World War I and the first in which women had the right to vote– between Republican candidate Warren G. Harding and Democrat James M. Cox. The election returns were broadcast on November 2, 1920. (Spoiler alert: Harding won in a landslide) The U.S. station would not broadcast daily until the following year. Anyhow, just remember the Canadian XWA broadcast was first by several months.

I think it is important to point out that both these radio stations were essentially novelties at the time and both

were broadcasting to amateur radio operators, or “hams,” many listening to the broadcasts on crystal radio sets. The development of crystal sets, a simple, non-amplified radio receiver in the early days of the emerging technology, would be instrumental in introducing radio to the wider public. The crystal sets were inexpensive to purchase and easy to make by hobbyists and children.

My point of sharing all this seemingly obscure trivia is to establish Canada is a pioneer in the emergence of broadcast radio. And that matters because my ultimate goal is to establish the stand-alone Canadian significance of the Barn Dance. The Barn Dance existed because “Doc” Cruickshank was sufficiently satisfied by this new radio technology, not only to make it a full time job, but to make a transmitter that would put Wingham, Ontario on the air on February 20th, 1926

The show was about to go on!

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