



The Barn Dance Opera Journal

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Summer Edition

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ONTARIO COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVALS & JAMBOREES = FUN

By Grant Heywood



The Blyth Barn Dance Jamboree/Campout has been going for 21 years.

Music festivals have been attracting audiences for decades rain or shine. Newport, Connecticut was one of the first to establish an outdoor festival of any great magnitude with the Newport Jazz Festival, followed by the Newport Folk Festival in the 1950's. Music festivals soon started sprouting up all over and really became popular with the renowned Woodstock Music & Art Fair Festival in 1969, which catapulted many rock artists into superstardom. The precursor to that was Monterey Pop in California, where young hippies gathered in the summer of love to hear folk and rock music.

We all know what made Milwaukee famous, right? Well, Milwaukee, Wisconsin is also famous for hosting the World's Largest Music Festival. **Summerfest** has been given that distinction since 1999, when the Guinness Book of World Records officially made that proclamation. It is an 11 day music festival

with over 800 acts and has been ongoing since 1968. It is estimated that **Summerfest** attracts between 800,000 to 1,000,000 people every year, and continues to grow. Good luck finding any parking.

We have had our fair share of music festival fame and saturation in Canada as well. The SARS Music Festival in Toronto in 2003, was touted as being a major milestone in festivals and audience numbers, which featured The Rolling Stones and AC/DC. The Mariposa Folk Festival in Orillia, Ontario has diminished somewhat from its 'glory days', when they presented the likes of Gordon Lightfoot, Joni Mitchell, Willie P. Bennett, Ian & Sylvia, Stan Rogers, and Bruce Cockburn. Since then, music has splintered in many directions that it's hard to label anymore. Back in the day, it was country music, folk, rock and jazz. Nowadays blues festivals accept rock music, jazz festivals accept blues music, country music accepts blues or rock, and bluegrass sometimes accepts folk and country. Even hip hop, rap, grunge, and heavy metal spill over into some of these festivals. It's a different musical world today. As much as we try to hold on to our traditions, music just seems to find a way to blur the lines.

We recently had our 21st Annual Blyth Barn Dance Campout Jamboree in May, and it still continues to draw a faithful audience. MC Jim Swan, asked the audience at the Saturday night Barn Dance Show, to raise their hand if this was their first time at the Barn Dance Jamboree. Surprisingly, a show of 40 to 50 hands went up and many of that number were couples. It's true, that Canada's Largest and Longest Travelling Barn Dance still continues to draw people in great numbers to witness a Canadian style Grand Ole Opry performance, with known and 'up and coming' professional entertainers backed by the popular Barn Dance Band.

Canada has a wealth of country music festivals and jamborees. Some have been operating for many, many years, including the Calgary Stampede, and Big Valley Jamboree in Alberta. Ontario has the Havelock Country Jamboree in August with major name talent, the Boots and Hearts Festival, and the Manitoulin Country Festival are just a few of many summer country music events. Lucknow, Ontario, has a country music festival called Music in the Fields in August that has been going strong now for a number of years.

Bluegrass festivals still continue to draw devoted fans of that genre, with the Tottenham Bluegrass Festival in June, River Valley Bluegrass Festival and Palmer Rapids take place in July. The Hillside Festival in Guelph has been operating for quite some time and is interesting in that it has some headliners, but also has many new artists of not only folk music, but Americana, bluegrass, country, rock, jazz and just about anything. The Kitchener Blues Fest, held every August, has become the largest blues festival in Canada, and hosts many major headline acts as well as local acts. The London Rock the Park event in London, Ontario, is a major attraction for mainly classic rock and is held in July.

Personally, I don't usually get a chance to go to any of these summer outdoor music

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The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



We are fortunate to have a Four Seasons sunroom facing the south, at the rear of our house. It is likely the most used room in the house because you can see the great outdoors all around with natural light flowing in. We get to see the changing seasons from an indoor perspective without the harshness of the elements. Since this past extended and grueling winter, I think it may have become a Three Seasons sunroom. I don't know if this is the result of climate change, but we just don't seem to have much of a spring season anymore. We seem to go from snow and frigid temps to warm and sunny in the blink of an eye. If it's not climate change then I guess I'm just becoming a grumpy old fart.

But it is nice to finally get outside and enjoy the sunshine and fresh air. Our recent 21st Annual Barn Dance Jamboree in Blyth had a very good turnout. No doubt the good weather was a factor besides our lineup of great talent. I always look forward to meeting new friends but I always lament the fact that many friends who used to come are either unable to or have passed on. It was a surprise and a joy to see so many hands go up when M.C. Jim Swan asked the audience to put up their hand if this was their first time at a Barn Dance Show. There was a show of hands that amounted to almost 50 new people attending their first Barn Dance Show. It's nice to know that the Barn Dance is still garnering new fans that support traditional country music.

A big surprise to everyone at the Saturday night Barn Dance Show in Blyth, was the appearance of Canada's Country Gentleman.....Tommy Hunter. The CBC TV Tommy Hunter Show ran for many, many years, and since his retirement, it was a joy to see Tommy Hunter accept the Barn Dance Pioneer Award onstage. I know many had hoped Tommy would sing a song and he

teased everyone when he led everyone into singing Happy Birthday to Barn Dance MC, Jim Swan. Tommy appeared on the original Barn Dance back in the 50's and possibly early 60's. There were a lot of smiles when he graced the stage and a lot of memories discussed with others behind the stage. It was an unforgettable evening for sure.

Barn Dance entertainer and columnist, Doreen Brown also received the Barn Dance Appreciation Award for her many years of dedication to the Barn Dance. Guest entertainer, Kiley Joe Masson received the Barn Dance Heritage Award that evening as well. It was a great show Saturday night, only to be followed by a superb Gospel Show on Sunday morning. Musical directors, Doug Dietrich and Betty Beer are in their element when it comes to getting great talent for both shows respectively.

The Barn Dance show appeared at the Commercial Tavern in Maryhill on Sunday, June 10th. The near capacity crowd were entertained by Erin Radio host, Bryce Butcher, Commercial Bluegrass band member, Richard Dugal, recent Barn Dance award winner, Kiley Joe Masson, Juno/CCMA legend, Larry Mercey, and Mr. Country Music himself, Paul Weber. The Barn Dance Pioneer Award was presented to longtime country singer and promoter, Joe Firth. Paul and Mike Weber used to tour with Joe Firth and the Promised Land, so it was only fitting that Joe received the award in Maryhill in front of so many friends and fans.

Our Barn Dance Show season isn't over yet. Although spring is a busy time for the Barn Dance, the Barn Dance Show takes a break through the summer but will be active again in the fall. Please check the schedule below to see where the next Barn Dance Show will be appearing. Hope to see you at the next Barn Dance.

Comments? Please contact:
Grant Heywood
5584 Deborah Glaister Line,
R. R. #2, Wellesley,
Ontario N0B 2T0
Phone: (519) 656-2552
E-mail: heywoods@explornet.ca
or send a message on facebook.

The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum

P.O. Box 68

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Phone (519) 530-8000

(or leave a message)

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www.thebardance.ca

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

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2018 COMING EVENTS

Date	Event Name	Place
Sun, Nov 18	Barn Dance Show	Harworth Legion Hall, Harworth

Continued from Page 1

events because I'm either playing a gig, touring, or sometimes playing on a festival stage. As a musician and entertainer, it is always a pleasure to work in front of a large festival audience. It's an honour to open for a headliner and get to meet them before or after the show, and it is even better when you get to be the headliner as well. Sometimes I feel that the stage is just too big and the intimacy of the music can get lost in such an open air setting. Regardless of that, it's all about the fans and the paid experience.

There are a lot of music festivals in Ontario and it is hard to pick and choose. It's even more difficult when these festivals and jamborees overlap on the same weekend. In this situation, it's the audience that loses when they can't make a decision of which event to attend. It's even worse for the festival operators because they often take 'a hit' if the weather doesn't co-operate but really take a loss if the event doesn't draw enough people. Recently, the Marmora Bluegrass & Country Jamboree folded and the Holstein Rodeo which attracted a big audience has also stopped operating. Often these events are sponsored and require volunteers. When the sponsors dry up and the volunteers aren't plentiful, or when rules and regulations become too much to handle, it can be detrimental to making an event happen.

When it comes to traditional country music, there are fewer of these kind of festivals existing, because of competition and demographics. The Trenton Classic Country Music Reunion, held at the beginning of August, has been successful for the past 27 years. The Barn Dance Blyth Campout Jamboree at the end of May is still garnering a large following for 21 years now. These 3 day wknd., music events are just two places where traditional country music thrives, as it's getting more difficult to find that genre' of music. Lynn Russwurm's son, Lance, is carrying on the tradition of featuring traditional country music and bluegrass at Music in the Park at Gore Park in Elmira during the summer months on Sunday evenings. Purple Hill in Thorndale, is also another traditional country music show venue. Traditional country music is still viable and with the help of country classic music on radio, it will always find a supportive audience.

I've seen a few more young folks at some of these traditional country music festivals as of late. Traditional country music may be a bit of a niche' market now, but I believe that given enough time, it will continue to survive. Even the younger artists know you can't deny your roots. Remember, what goes around comes around.

WHO REMEMBERS THIS?

by Grant Heywood

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

If you lived in a small town, then you will be familiar with the term, milkman. Back in the day, at least before the end of the '60's, some of our local services were actually brought to our doorstep. Most towns had a local dairy (before they were eventually bought up by big conglomerates). The dairy would employ local folks and bottle and distribute milk and cream. When I was about 10 or 11 years old I would visit my cousins farm outside of Zurich, Ontario. My Aunt Verlyn would bottle cream from the cream separator on the farm and my cousin Richard and I would help her deliver the bottled cream to doorsteps in Zurich. Quite often the money would be waiting under a mat or between the doors, if they weren't home. Heaven forbid doing that today!

But it was the local dairies and creameries that thrived during that time. The Teeswater Creamery near Wingham, was one of the biggest and most profitable dairies in the area, and was the major employer there. In my hometown of Wingham, there were two dairies. My mom used to work at Foxton Dairies in Wingham and our neighbours owned Bateson Dairy, also in Wingham. My future father-in-law, Ferg Riley, delivered milk (in quart bottles) to our doorstep. Actually, we had a milk chute (a small square cubby hole with a door at the side of the house that accommodated at least 4 quarts of milk.) Ferg was just one of the people who drove a Bateson's Dairy milk wagon which was pulled by a horse. I used to put notes in the milk chute asking what his name was. One day he answered and said...'Joe Blow'. I never knew then that he would eventually be my father-in-law. Ferg was a hard working man, with his wife Margaret and nine girls. He worked for the dairy in the morning and then worked at the Western Foundry (now Westcast) in Wingham the rest of the day. Both hard working people who I miss a lot.

I loved getting milk and cream in a glass

bottle. Believe it or not there are some places in North America and the UK where this tradition of delivering bottled milk is still in practice. Nowadays we get our milk in plastic or cardboard containers, or plastic bags. I remember trying out for the local soccer team in Wingham on a very hot day. Bateson's Dairy provided a whole milk can of chocolate milk that day. I drank so much after the game I became as bloated as a cow. LOL

I remember visiting Don & Cora Robertson (from the CKNX Ranch Boys) with my mom and dad. They had a dairy/creamery in Bluevale, just outside of Wingham on Hwy. 86. That dairy and most others in the area are just a memory from my distant past now. Today, big tanker milk trucks pick up the milk and cream from much larger milk farms and deliver it to major dairy processing centres like Saputo Inc. in Tavistock.

I used to like opening the cardboard top on the milk bottle and enjoyed it even more when the cream had risen to the top. We even used to get chocolate milk in smaller pint bottles locally as well. I remember shopping with my mom at the local IGA store and once in a while someone would let a bottle of milk slip as they went to put it in the cart. It was a bit more of a mess with spilt milk and shards of glass on the floor. Those days are gone but conjure up great memories.

As a note, Quebec produces the most milk in Canada, followed by Ontario. There are 945,000 dairy cows on 10,951 farms across Canada. The Canadian dairy sector contributes \$ 18.9 billion dollars annually to Canada's GDP, and sustains 215,000 full time jobs. One of the largest dairy farms in the world is the Mudanjiang City Mega Farm in China which manages 22,500,000 acres.

With the trade war going on between the U.S., Canada and the rest of the world, we must do everything we can to protect our dairy industry. Buy local whenever you can and stand up for local farmers. We don't need some other country screwing up our dairy industry, or steel, or lumber, or beef...and so on. Stand up and be a proud Canadian and have a glass of milk.

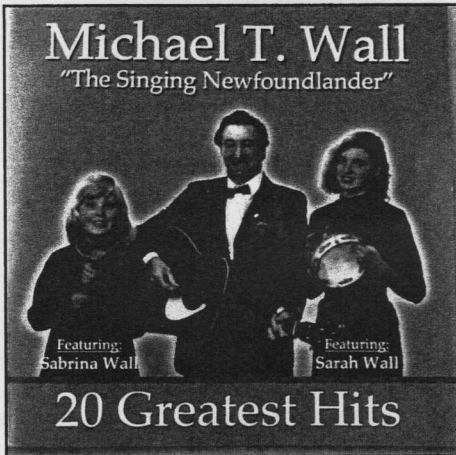


CD Review

MICHAEL T. WALL

'THE SINGING NEWFOUNDLANDER'
20 GREATEST HITS

by Grant Heywood



Michael T. Wall was born in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and started his career path as a singer and musical ambassador of Newfoundland, around 1961 in Toronto. Since that time he has written and recorded several songs, and toured extensively in Australia where he has become somewhat of an adapted son in country music circles.

This 20 song cd represents much of Michael's best work over the years. It includes a song written by his daughters Sarah and Sabrina, who also perform on the track *Daddy's Girls*. Lots of rollicking down east fun on this cd, such as *The Newfie Polka*, *Big Ole Newfie Dog*, *Hillbilly Newfie and Newfoundland Waltz*. You certainly can't get much more Newfie than that. Michael does a nice rendition of the Roy

Payne classic, *I Wouldn't Take a Million Dollars, For a Single Maple Leaf*. There's also a 'tongue in cheek' Shel Silverstein song on the cd called, *You Are*.

Michael has had a lot of success with his eco-friendly, *The Recycling Song*. A lot of Michael's songs are happy songs and many with a novelty twist such *The Monster Song*, and *Big Ole Newfie Dog*, which Michael co-wrote with Artie McLaren. Sabrina Wall co-wrote *The Wonderous CN Tower*, with Fay Herridge, which has a nice melody that Sabrina sings on so well. Michael's daughters are on several songs and do an oldie that I used to sing with the Heywood Family when I was about 7 called *Open Up Your Heart*.

Most of the songs were recorded at Kinck Sound in Toronto as well as Erinwood Studios in Erin. The backup musicians include Walter Ostanek, Albert MacDonald, Al Brisco, and a host of other well-known players. If you like good Canadian Maritime music done Newfie style, then this cd will make you smile. For more info. e-mail Michael at: mr.nfld99@gmail.com

THERE'S STILL
A LITTLE
COUNTRY LEFTDARYLE SINGLETARY/REAL
COUNTRY SINGER 1971-2018

by Grant Heywood

I don't usually do a commentary on country music artists who have passed on, but I just thought I should say a few words about Daryle Singletary. *There's Still A Little Country Left*, is the title of one of Daryle's last albums, and that just about sums it up. Daryle was an American country music singer/songwriter who died in February of 2018 at age 46. He was a family man originally from Georgia and many will remember him for his hits in the mid '90's, *Too Much Fun*, *I Let Her Lie*, and *Amen Kind of Love*. Daryle Singletary was an original country music singer, in that he had a truly honest country voice that evoked traditional country music the way it was intended.

I'm writing this short column because I believe that Daryle Singletary may be one of the last of a dying breed of younger country artists who actually knew what it meant to sing, and be a traditional country music artist. I only have one Daryle Singletary cd, *That's Why I Sing This Way*. It is an album of mainly cover songs from *Long Black Veil*, *Old Violin*, to *I'd Love to Lay You Down*, and *I Never Go Around Mirrors*. It is one of the best country music albums in my collection and says a lot about a young man who understands and sings country music with all his heart and soul. There are still a few young country artists around who 'get it' when it comes to real country music. It's just a shame that Daryle Singletary never got to live as long as many of the legends, whose songs he has performed so flawlessly. I tip my hat to Daryle Singletary. A great loss to country music.

21st Annual Blyth Barn Dance Campout Jamboree Memorable Moments

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.
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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.

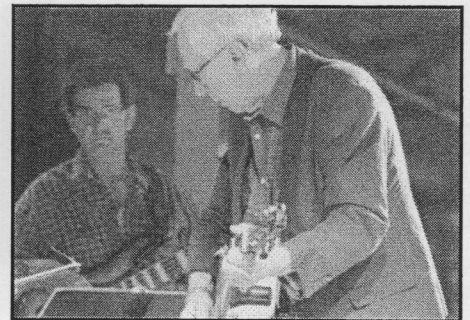
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The Friday night bluegrass show
featured Farrington Hill from the
Simcoe area.



Singer/entertainer, John Ham from
London performed on the main show.

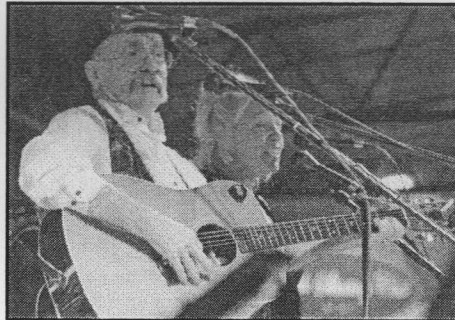
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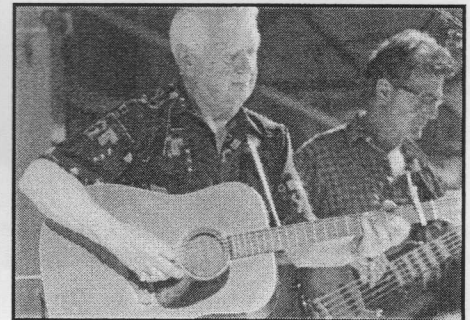
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Honouree 'Canada's Country Music
Gentleman', Tommy Hunter, jokes with
MC, Jim Swan & Barn Dance Presi-
dent, Ruth Baxter as he accepts the
Barn Dance Pioneer Award.



Barn Dance
Gospel Show
Director
Betty Beer

21st Annual Blyth Barn Dance Campout Jamboree Memorable Moments



The Small Town Girls from Tillsonburg



Bryce Butcher from Erin



Saturday afternoon open stage jam on the Mainstage.



Barn Dance entertainer/columnist, Doreen Brown, receives the Barn Dance Appreciation Award from MC Jim Swan.



Legendary Tommy Hunter receives the Barn Dance Pioneer Award from MC Jim Swan, and Barn Dance President, Ruth Baxter.



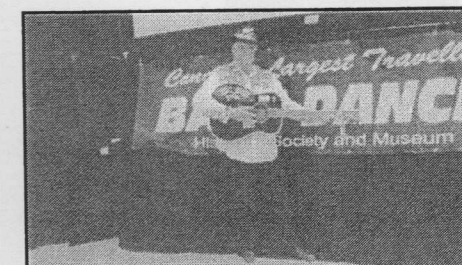
Thursday night upstairs jam.



Kiley Joe Masson accepts the Barn Dance Heritage Award from MC Jim Swan and Barn Dance President, Ruth Baxter.



Longtime country singer/promoter, Joe Firth receives the Barn Dance Pioneer Award at the June 10th Barn Dance Show at the Commercial Tavern in Maryhill.



The Singing Newfoundlander, Michael T. Wall, performed on the Saturday Night Show, and the Sunday Gospel Show as well.

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COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown
(Toronto and surrounding area)

- * **July 5-8** - River Valley Country and Bluegrass call 705 758 9049.
- * **July 6-12** - Annual Hollyrood Country Jamboree. At 901 Harmony Rd., Belleville, ON. For more information, email holidayrood901@hotmail.com or call 613-967-9951.
- * **July 6-9** - River Valley Country and Bluegrass. Call 705-758-9049 for more.
- * **July 6-8** - Weekend camp out and jamboree. July 7 Pickin' by the Pond Festival in Cargill, ON. Visit www.visitcargill.ca for more information.
- * **July 7-9** - Fox Hollow Bluegrass and Old Country. Call 905-431-7511.
- * **July 12-15** - 24th Valley Bluegrass and Old Country. For more, call 613-432-9084 or visit www.valleybluegrass.ca.
- * **July 12-15** - 10th Annual Norwood Country Jamboree, located at 48 Alma St. Norwood Fairgrounds. Call 1-800-954-9998 or 705-741-6097 or email info@norwoodcountryjamboree.com or go to their website www.norwoodcountryjamboree.com. Reminder also of the gospel show on the 15th. Breakfast served Friday and Saturday by Taylor's Custom Meats and Catering. Shuttle bus from site to building.
- * **July 12-15** - Renfrew's Bluegrass Festival in the town of Renfrew. For tickets call 613-432-2414, ext. 104. Location Ma-te-way Activity Centre, 1 Ma-te-way Park Dr., Renfrew, ON. Line up as follows; Karl Shiflet and Big Country Show, Junior Sist and Ramblers Choice Corey Zink and Company, the Dick Smith/Mike O'reilly Band, Alicia Robinheu and Lonesome Sound, Traditionally Wound, Ray Legere and Acoustic Horizon, and Barn Katz.
- * **July 13-15** - Preston Springs Country Jamboree in Hastings, ON. Call 705-696-2268.
- * **July 19-21** - Bluegrass Jamoree at Happy Green Acres Campground, 1000 islands; email info@happygreenacres.ca, or call 343-264-2468. 2 Greenacres Rd., Mallorietown, ON, K0E 1R0. Line up for the sweetgrass band; Maple Hill, Bill White and White Pine at County Rd 44; the Pie Plates; Happy Green Acres located near Brockville, ON in heart of 1000 islands.
- * **July 19-22** - Minden Hills Bluegrass Festival, call 705-457-6880 for more info.
- * **July 19-22** - Napanee Country Jamboree, call 613-476-6535 for more info.
- * **July 26-29** - Pickin in the Park, Shelburne, ON. Call Greg or Heather Holmes, 519-925-3037. Music all weekend. Bring your musical instruments for the weekend or a day. Also bring chairs. Beauty contest Friday night. Trail trash yard sale from trunk of vehicle Saturday a.m. www.pickinthePark.webs.com for more information.
- * **Aug 1-12** - Free concert at the Summer Street Fest in downtown Woodstock, ON. Times will be available soon online at www.downtownwoodstock.ca
- * **Aug 2-5** - 27th Annual Classic Country Music Reunion. Please note the address has changed since the last journal to: Roseneath Fairgrounds, 9109 County Rd 49, Roseneath, ON, K0K 2X0. Call 709-799-6238 or go online at www.classiccountrymusicreunion.ca

well, ON. Call 519-678-3434 for more information.

- * **Aug 3-6** - Flinton Community Jamboree in Flinton, ON. Call 613-539-4165.
- * **Aug. 7** - 7pm Bata Centre, Batawa, ON, call 1-855-726-8896. Aug 18 at 7 pm in Kingston, ON., Mathew J. Dawe at the Memorial Legion. Call 613-389-6605.
- * **Aug 9-11** - Classic Country Music Festival at Centreville Fair Grounds (near Trenton). Go online to www.classiccountrymusicfestival.ca for more.
- * **Aug 10-12** - Hitchin Post Jamboree in Grafton, ON. Call 905-349-3275.
- * **Aug 10-12** - Pick n' Ride Bluegrass Festival in Foresters Falls, ON. Call 613-687-0585.
- * **Aug 16-19** - Havelock Country Jamboree in Havelock, ON. Call 1-800-539-3353. (Line up was in last journal).
- * **Aug 16-19** - Havelock Country Jamboree. Over 25 entertainers performing over 4 day festival (outline was in last journal) Reserved camping and preferred seats. Call 1-800-539-3353 or go online at www.havelockjamboree.com for more details.
- * **Aug 17-19** - South Grenville Bluegrass Fest, Spencerville, ON. Call 613-883-3126 for more info.
- * **Aug 17-19** - Burks Falls Country Jamboree in Burks Falls, ON. Call 705-282-2384 for more information.
- * **Aug 17-19** - Burk's Falls Country Jamboree at Burk's Fall's Fair Grounds. Line up as follows; Southbound, Marie Bottrell, Roxeme and Dalymple. Contact Peter Hall at 705-380-0902 or Bob Gray at 705-571-2384. Back by popular demand, Bruce Wayne Stewart Elvis tribute artist. Email grayhallproductions@gmail.com for more. Country/Bluegrass must that Ontario has to offer. Washrooms and showers available. Kids under 12 are free.
- * **Aug 24- 26** Prince Edward County Country Jamboree in Cherry Valley, ON. Call 613-476-6535 for more info.
- * **Aug 30-Sept 2** - River Valley Wind Up Weekend in River Valley, ON. Call 705-758-9049 for more info.
- * **Aug 30-Sept 2** - Early Bird Show Aug 28, 29, Keeler Centre, Apple Country Jamboree, Colborne, ON. Line up is in last journal; features Moe Bandy. Camping available at 80 Division St., Colborne, ON. Call 905-372-6492 for more details.
- * **Aug 30-Sept 2** - Apple Country Jamboree at the Keeler Centre, Colborne, ON. Line up was in last journal. Call for info at 905-372-6492.
- * **Camden Lions Classic Country Jamboree** - Will be held at Centreville, ON. Call 613-379-9972 for more information.
- * **Appearances for Scott Woods** - Email info@scottwoods.ca or go online at www.scottwoods.ca or call 1-855-726-8896 for more details.
- * **Purple Hill Bluegrass Opry Reunion** - Located in Thorndale, ON. Call 519-461-0538 for more info.
- * **Acoustic and Bluegrass Music Appearances** - By Farringdon Hill, Port Dover, ON. Email farringdonhillband@yahoo.ca or text 519-754-9583. Festivals, corporate and retail events, private functions.
- * **For appearances by Bryce Butcher (musician)** - Call 519-362-9744 or email dwbbutcher@gmail.com
- * **Upcoming events at Purple Hill** - Go online at www.purplehillcountryhall.com or call 519-461-0538. On July 8th at 2pm, on the lawns in the Opry House. In last journal of entertainment line up of August 17-19, namely Purple Hill bluegrass reunion weekend of camping. Friday night Good Bros with great Canadian bluegrass bands all weekend. Also some great gospel music on Sunday. This will be a Canadian talent extravaganza.
- * **Appearances by Michael T. Wall** - Advises he is leaving for Nashville to record a 16 song CD, namely

ny Cash museum, visit with John Carter Cash and planning an all Johnny Cash song CD.

- * **Thanking** - CKNX for their support of artists playing their music over the years. Also to Peter Trenholm, gospel/country performer, recording artist, Hank Williams Sr. historian, classic country music historian, house at 10940 South Pugwash, Nova Scotia, Canada B0K 1L0. Host of gospel trail, CFTA 107.9, go online www.cftafm.com or call 902-243-3102, who support many Canadian artists.
- * **Second Thursday of the month** - Barrie/Thornton Fiddle Club Jam/Dance. Starts at 7pm. For info, call 705-436-3328.
- * **Appearances by Doreen Brown** - July 12 Thornton jam, upstairs in the Thornton Arena. July 17, Rec Centre in Alliston, ON, formerly Rosemount Jam at 7:30pm. July 26, Rec Centre at 1:30pm Sr's Jam Rec Centre. July 27 weekend, Pickin in the Park, Shelburne, ON. Bring lawn chairs. Friday night fashion show. Bring your instruments for a weekend of fun and dancing. August 1-3, new location classic country music reunion, now in 27th year at Roseneath fairgrounds. Visit the website at www.classiccountrymusicreunion.com for more. August 31, Auction Barn Jamboree in Colborne, ON. September 13, Thornton Fiddle Club.
- * **For appearances of Len Murphy** - Call 705-259-1195 for more details.
- * **Appearances for Echo Mountain** - Call 613-372-2883 for more information.
- * **Wolfe Milestone is working on a new CD** - Appearances as follows: Aug 4 at Army, Navy Airforce, 132 Third St., Missauga, ON. from 8-12. Aug 5 at the Moose Lodge, lakeshore and browns line 4-8. Sept 7-14, on the 8th, Wolfe Milestone is nominated, in Nashville, for male vocalist of the year, an independent award from Jose Music Awards, Pidgeon Forge, TN, U.S.A. Thanks to Echoto Records, mentor Michael T. Wall and Doreen Brown.
- * **Appearances by Linda Wells of Silver Wings** - Call 905-264-1586 for more details.
- * **For upcoming shows** - Canada's home of country music, Commercial Tavern, Maryhill, ON. Visit www.commercialtavern.com or contact Paul Weber at 519-648-3644 for dates and times of shows or on website.
- * **Dixon Company Band summer schedule** - For 2018 details, call 519-476-0017 or go online to www.dixonband.com.
- * **September 2** - Free Summer Concert in the Park at 7pm at the Stratford Festival, Upper Queen's Band Shell. Bring lawn chairs.
- * **September 21** - IMP in Pain Court Chattem-Kent, ON from 9-11pm. Visit www.plowingmatch.org for more info.
- * **October 28** - 126 Beale St. Unifor Hall Woodstock, ON for the Annual Fall Dance from 2-5pm. Tickets are \$8. Call Sharon at 519-842-6341 or Cindy at 519-476-0017.

Much appreciation and thanks to all who attended the weekend shows of our annual barn dance and your support, also to all that contributed their time in so many ways for a wonderful weekend or day attendance. Sometimes it's difficult to put into words the surprise and appreciation this writer had receiving a beautiful award on the sat night show. for those who were there it was a special night for all of us, always to be remembered.

Thank you all so very, very much!

Anyone wishing to be added to this column re: appearances, please forward information to me at dbenterprises@rogers.com. Have a wonderful safe and fun summer!

BARN DANCE CORNER

by Peter Saros

It was three issues ago in the fall edition of the 2017 *The Barn Dance Opera Journal* that I first decided to tackle the challenge of championing *The CKNX Barn Dance* as a unique Canadian variant, a sub-species if you will, of radio barn dance programs made famous in the United States. My goal was to establish it as a stand-alone Canadian entity, sufficiently unique in structure and tenure to stand apart from its more famous relatives such as Chicago's *WLS National Barn Dance*, Shreveport's *KWKH The Louisiana Hayride*, and Nashville's *WSM Grand Ole Opry* (among many other less famous barn dance programs across the states and Canada as well).

Two aspects of the Barn Dance's history set it apart. The first is that the show became a travelling unit as of 1942 when Johnny Brent joined the CKNX staff and became the manager of the Barn Dance. Why Brent decided the show would be more successful as a travelling production speaks specifically to the Canadian challenge of wide open spaces. Former Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King delivered a speech to the House of Commons in Ottawa on June 18, 1936. In it he famously said “

If some countries have too much history, Canada has too much geography.” This issue of distance and space is precisely what forced the Barn Dance show on the road. There was not enough population density in Wingham, Ontario to allow a successful home base for the Barn Dance as the Ryman Auditorium would afford the *Grand Ole Opry* in Nashville, the Shreveport Municipal Memorial Auditorium in Shreveport, Louisiana *The Louisiana Hayride*, or the Sherman Hotel *The National Barn Dance* in downtown Chicago. At the emotional heart of the decision to bring the show into communities across southwestern Ontario was the goal to bring the program closer to its listeners. It was easier for the Barn Dance to leave Wingham than it was for listeners to come to town. Other factors were certainly at play, but this one loomed largest and most significant.

This is not to say that the original live broadcasts of the *The CKNX Barn Dance* from the CKNX studios in front of a window facing Wingham's Josephine Street were not hugely successful. They were insanely successful. Speakers were set outside the studio so the show could be heard outside and people showed up in

sufficient numbers that traffic was stopped every night on the town's main street. It was a phenomenon, but one that could not be sustained long term. To achieve that, the show had to travel.

And once it travelled the show sustained with all the staying power of a piano pedal pinned to the floor. To this day the sounds of the Barn Dance have not become inaudible or gone silent the way of so many other Barn Dance programs.

That the show remains a viable, living travelling show across southwestern Ontario is the single most distinguishing feature of the Barn Dance.

The Show must go on!



**21st Annual
Blyth Barn
Dance Campout
Jamboree
Winners**

**Friday night Share the Wealth
Draw winners:**

- Jane Postma, Clinton, Ont.
- Sandy Neeb, Port Elgin, Ont.

**Saturday night Share the Wealth
Draw winners :**

- Larry Graham, R.R. 4 Meaford, Ont.
- Dan VanRaes, Rodney, Ont.

**Saturday Draw for a Yamaha
Acoustic Guitar w/accessories,
Value \$425.**

**Provided by Ernie King Music
Wingham, Ontario.**

Winner: Bill Davidson, Fergus, Ont.

