



# The Barn Dance Opera Journal



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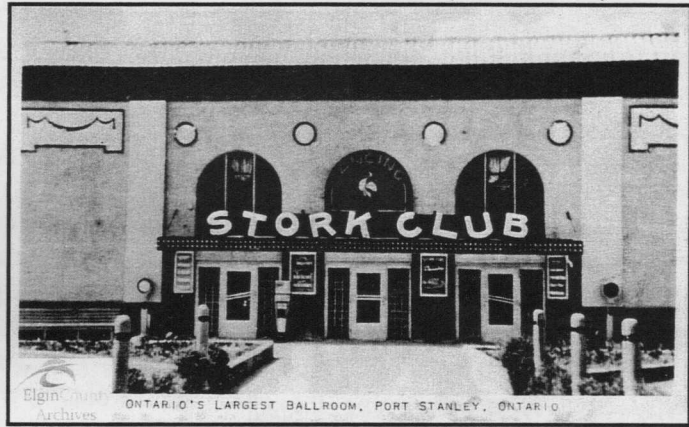
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## MEMORIES OF DANCE HALLS & PAVILIONS ON THE LAKE

By Grant Heywood



*Sauble Beach Pavilion*



*Stork Club, Port Stanley*

A long time ago, back before there were cell phones, computers, internet, Facebook, and Youtube...entertainment was mainly 'live music'. And some of the best places to go dancing or listen to a live band were on the beach, on Lake Huron and Lake Erie. You could say it was a 'golden era' for many musicians and the audience as well.

When radio started broadcasting music over the airwaves in the 1920's, it ushered in a whole new age of entertainment for most folks. Dance halls and dance pavilions started springing up all over. With the advent of the automobile to make travelling easier, it only made sense that many of these dance halls would be built along the southern Great Lakes beach areas, where people flocked to in the summer, for rest and relaxation. Aaaaah, the good old summertime.

Most of these dance halls, pavilions or casinos, as they were sometimes called, were constructed of wood, which made for great warm acoustics inside. Popular places like The Stork Club at Port Stanley, Bright's Grove in Sarnia, The Port Elgin

Casino, or The Sauble Beach Pavilion, became hot spots for dancing and live music. At first it was the jitterbug music of the 1920's and into the 1930's, followed by big bands, jazz, and country music, only to give way to the new sounds of rock and roll. It was literally a 'hey day' for live musical entertainment, and the place to be was at the beach dance halls.

The Stork Club and the Crystal Beach Pavilion on Lake Erie were two of the bigger venues that attracted big bands, like The Dorsey Bros., Louis Armstrong, Guy Lombardo, Bert Niosi, Mart Kenny and Johnny Downs & his Orchestra. Being that most of these dance halls were on the beach, they were often in close proximity to each other and many bands performed this circuit jumping, from one dance hall to another. When only radio prevailed and television wasn't even born yet, the beach dance halls were the happening place to be.

I remember my dad, (Earl Heywood), taking me to meet and see Bill Haley and his Comets perform at Brights Grove in 1956. It's a bit vague, but I recall the rock-

ably music they played and how the dance floor was just jammed! Meeting Bill Haley was a bonus too. Rompin' Ronnie Hawkins and the Hawks played almost every beach dance hall around. There were several popular dance halls that weren't on the beach as well, such as the Royal T, in Wingham, the Esquire outside of Hanover, and the Crystal Palace in Mitchell. The Barn Dance and The Ranch Boys performed often at these dance halls. Since Wingham was my home town, we were very close to The Kincardine Beach Pavillion, The Port Elgin Casino, and the Sauble Beach Pavillion. Kenny Ducharme and The Nightlights from Wingham, were the house band on certain nights at the Kincardine Beach Pavillion. This was also the place where I saw my very first 'rock concert', with the Electric Prunes from California. At the Kincardine Beach Pavillion, the stage and dance floor were in the middle circled by a walkway where people would walk around to check out the opposite sex and maybe get enough courage to dance.

There were dance halls in Grand Bend, Bayfield, Kincardine, Port Elgin, Sauble

*Continued on Page 3*

## The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



Have you ever had one of those days...or maybe I should say, have you ever had one of those weeks? They say things come in three's and I now believe that to be true.

I was performing with the Barn Dance Band at the recent Blyth Barn Dance Jamboree. It was Saturday evening and the Thorn & Roses Band were onstage while I was taking a break. It was one of those days where a severe thunderstorm could crop up at any time. I checked my phone for any messages and saw that my wife had sent me a text. It read: "Holy cow! A tornado came through about 4:45 and about 8 large trees are down. Next door was hit as well. It's a real mess! I think they had us on the Weather Channel."

That was enough for me. I told steel guitarist and Barn Dance musical director, Doug Dietrich, that I would be leaving right after the Barn Dance show. I was lucky to have friends like Bill Lewis, from Ridin' High and Jay Riehl, from Thorn & Roses, to play drums for the dance that followed. I got in my car and quickly scooted back to our place just outside of Wellesley. I surveyed the damage by flashlight but wasn't able to tell how bad things were until dawn.

The tornado tore off part of the roof on the Faith Mennonite Church in King-

wood, just up the road. The neighbouring Jantzi farm, had almost half of their full grown spruce trees up the lane, literally twisted right off. Then the tornado proceeded and danced down our fence line at the back of our house, but not hitting the house. It took out a full grown spruce tree, and snapped another in half. Two fifty foot ash trees were literally demolished. It tore into a Manitoba Maple, ripped a branch off our pear tree and squashed three apple trees before picking up our neighbour's box shed, complete with a 4 x 4 and riding mower, and throwing it out into the farmers field. There are still big spruce tree branches literally wrapped around the top of some of our maple trees.

Fortunately no one was hurt. My wife and daughter had been in town and when they got home there were about 50 Or 60 Mennonite boys and men with chainsaws and muscle power swarming over everyone's property cutting up tree limbs and branches and getting them out of harms way. It was a temporary clean-up, but such a welcome relief. I cannot thank the Mennonite community enough for coming to the rescue about ½ an hour after the tornado hit. It was unbelievable. Only the Weather Channel reported the tornado hit in our area. No other newscasts or local newspaper reported anything at all.

This is the second tornado to hit our area. About 25 or so years ago, I woke up at 4 a.m. and it sounded like a train was coming through our house. By morning you could see where the tornado followed a path up the sideroad taking out massive trees. Scary I must say.

That same week I finally got to mow the lawn only to have my riding mower break down. On top of that the fountain pump in our pond bit the dust as well,

## The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment

### Museum

P.O. Box 68

Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

Phone (519) 530-8000

(or leave a message)

**BARN DANCE WEBSITE:**

[www.thebardance.ca](http://www.thebardance.ca)

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*Founder and Honourary President*

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Doug Dietrich, Grant Heywood, Carol Shaw, Bill Simmermaker, David Wall, Ron Shaw, Doreen Armbruster and John Smith.

and I had to order a new one. Well, at least I'll have several cord of firewood for the next few years. We were lucky that this tornado didn't do more damage than it did.

With a string of successful Barn Dance Shows this past spring, the Barn Dance will be back again in the fall. Please check the Barn Dance schedule on this page. 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@xplornet.ca](mailto:heywoods@xplornet.ca)

or send a message on facebook.

## 2019 COMING EVENTS

Date	Event Name	Place
Sun., Sept. 29	Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m.	Formosa Community Centre, Formosa
Sun., Oct. 20	Barn Dance Show - 3:00 p.m.	Commercial Tavern, Maryhill
Sun., Nov. 24	Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m.	Heritage Hall, Hensall

*Continued from Page 1*

Beach and Wasaga Beach just to name a few on the Lake Huron side. The Port Elgin Casino had a dance floor inside, and an outdoor terrazzo floor for dancing as well. Local musician, Emmet McGrath and his band played Port Elgin and Kincardine on a regular basis. The big band sound of the Windjammers would often play the Kincardine Beach Pavillion. Even the Barn Dance and the Ranch Boys played these beach establishments. Back in those days you could drive your car on Sauble Beach. I remember the magic night I saw Grant Smith & the Power with a full horn section performing at the Sauble Beach Pavilion. As a musician, this was where the action was, and this was where you wanted to be onstage playing to a packed house.

Dance hall pavilions also lined Lake Ontario, and the Muskoka's featured Dunn's Pavilion in Bala, which later became a rock venue under the name The Kee to Bala, which still continues to this day. As the times changed, many of the dance halls and pavilions succumbed to old age and non-use, and had to be torn down. Some, like the Port Elgin Casino, burnt down. The Kincardine Beach Pavilion was restored and hosts many local events and weddings. It does bring back a lot of nostalgic memories for me. The smell of the wood structure, the warm summer nights, the band playing onstage, the waves lapping at the shore outside, and dancing with your favourite girl made for an evening to remember.

A perfect summer night for me would go something like this....A bunch of us would cram into a car or you'd be with your sweetie, and head out from Wingham to the Kincardine Beach Pavilion. It was usually a buck or two to get in to see and dance to some hot new band. Mornington Drive from Toronto were quite popular as was Kitchener's Copper Penny, Yukon, and eventually my own band got to play there too. After the dance, you'd head back to Wingham, but not without stopping by the Amberley Beach Store where you could get barbecued chicken until 3 a.m. Late nights were the norm in those teenage years.

If your memory doesn't serve you well about the dance hall era, there is a book by Peter Young, titled: *Let's Dance - A Celebration of Ontario's Dance Halls and Summer Dance Pavilions*. It's a nostalgic look back to a magical time in Ontario's musical dance hall days. It might be just what the doctor ordered if you want to take a trip back to this magical time in Ontario's musical history.

## Who Remembers This?

*By Grant Heywood*

When I write this column I always amaze myself when I realize that I have experienced or lived, when many of the things I talk about, were around. I know I'm showing my age, but life has many surprises and for most of us it has been a journey of curiosity leading to wisdom hopefully.

Who remembers when we used to get many of our consumer goods brought right to our doorstep? In my hometown of Wingham, our family lived in a duplex on Minnie Street. The main source of heat was coal, and an older gentleman in overalls, named Eve Parrish used to bring coal to our house with a wagon pulled by a team of horses. I remember one day at the main intersection at Josephine and John Steet when one of Eve's horses died right there on the road. The local constable asked Eve what happened and Eve replied 'I don't know. He's never done that before.' Using coal as a heating source soon gave way to oil and gas.

Milk and cream in Wingham, was also delivered by horse and wagon. There was Foxton's Dairy and Bateson's Dairy, and my father-in-law (Ferg Riley) used to deliver milk to our house from Bateson's Dairy. Back then, milk came in glass quart bottles, and cream in glass pint bottles. Firewood too, was sold on a house to house basis depending on what type of fuel you required. And then there were door to door encyclopedia sales, boxed meat, gadgets, as well as religion and politicians. Even the Girl Guides with cookies and the Boy Scouts with apples used to go from house to house.

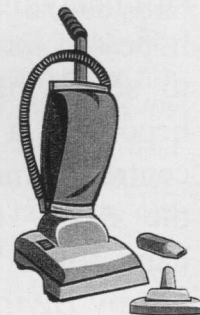
We also got delivery of fresh fish to our house as well. The 'Fishman' usually arrived in a pickup truck with a big freezer or a big iced container. The fish was usually caught that day and came from Southampton, Kincardine or Goderich, when commercial fishing was more viable in a less polluted environment. Most times the catch of the day was Whitefish. Always a treat when the 'Fishman' arrived. On the odd occasion we have had a sales person come to our house selling fresh lobster and crab.

There was a gentleman that used to

walk up and down the street with a portable knife and scissors stone wheel for sharpening. He'd ring a bell like the ice cream man to notify the neighbourhood he was looking for business sharpening knives and scissors right there at your house. Nowadays, kids might think Eddy Kruger was lurking in the neighbourhood. Lol

My mother and father had both sold Fuller Brush products door to door and too sold Fuller Brush products one lazy summer. Mom also became a top saleslady for Avon cosmetic products as well. She was good at it and even won an award. We even used to buy our insurance from a local company that went door to door. Nowadays, solicitors are either discouraged or banned from selling in this manner. Angry dogs were also a nuisance to sales people and still are for mail carriers. Today, you can order online, (usually from Amazon) and delivery is often the next day. I've even heard that drones are being licensed to make deliveries by air. Amazing! Even groceries and beer, (at least in the city) are now being delivered to your door.

We live out in the country with neighbours on either side. One day a young vacuum cleaner salesman came to our door trying to make a sale. That didn't happen and he asked if our one neighbor might be interested. I told him he could try. I remember seeing him take the vacuum cleaner into our neighbours house. As he went out to his car to get a free token gift, the front door flew open and the vacuum cleaner went flying through the air and landed on the front lawn in a tangled mess. The vacuum cleaner salesman looked back in shock. Words were said as he quickly gathered up the vacuum cleaner and hose with attachments. It took less than 20 seconds before he was out the driveway and speeding up the road and over the hill. I guess he didn't make a sale at the neighbours house that day.



# STATUS OF THE BARN DANCE MUSEUM

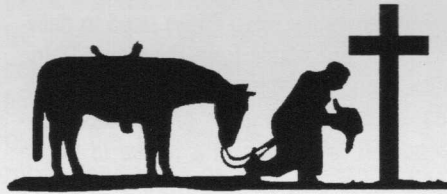
By Grant Heywood

Currently, the Barn Dance Museum and the North Huron Museum (both in the same building on Josephine Street in Wingham) are closed. As many of you know, the building was evaluated and the cost (3.9 million dollars) to maintain and renovate the building (which was the old Post Office) just couldn't be justified. The town council of North Huron has since had many meetings and debates about both museums and their imminent future.

A welcome interest from local entrepreneur Doug Kuivenhoven who owns the refurbished Railway Station at the north end of Wingham looks promising. With the help of Doug and various committee's set up with North Huron Council, the future looks bright for both museum's. Once a new location is found to house both the Barn Dance and North Huron museum's, and funding is allocated, then the project will inevitably proceed. There are still many hurdles, but it is the hope of North Huron Council to see Wingham succeed in becoming a hub as a music centre in Huron County. With the newly renovated Wingham Town Hall Theatre, the nearby Blyth Theatre, and the

expectations of a new location for the Barn Dance Museum, the Wingham & Blyth area will become somewhat of a musical/arts tourist destination.

Obviously, there is a time frame involved and it will likely be a while before any announcements are made about going ahead with this project. But the will is there, and North Huron Council has created quite a 'buzz' about following through with future plans for the museums, and Wingham as an entertainment destination.



## IN MEMORIAM

The recent passing of Canadian country music musician, Bill Carruthers, was quite a shock. Bill was a drummer/singer, with South Mountain, Marie Bottrell, and many other high profile bands and artists. He was also a country music promoter and spent many years as the entertainment director at Casino Windsor. Bill always had a smile and was a friend to everyone. He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

## 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*

Hi Folks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped in any way to make the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Barn Dance Campout Jamboree another great success. The Board of Directors, volunteers, musicians and especially you, our supporters and fans, who show up year after year. We couldn't do this without all of you. So... tell your friends if you had a good time. If you have a question or two ask me. Let's make next year the biggest yet.

Sincerely,

*Bill Simmermaker*

Campout Chairman

Email:

[bsimms537@gmail.com](mailto:bsimms537@gmail.com)

or call 226 747 2994



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# THE BARN DANCE BAND AND THE CHANGING OF THE FIDDLERS

BY GRANT HEYWOOD



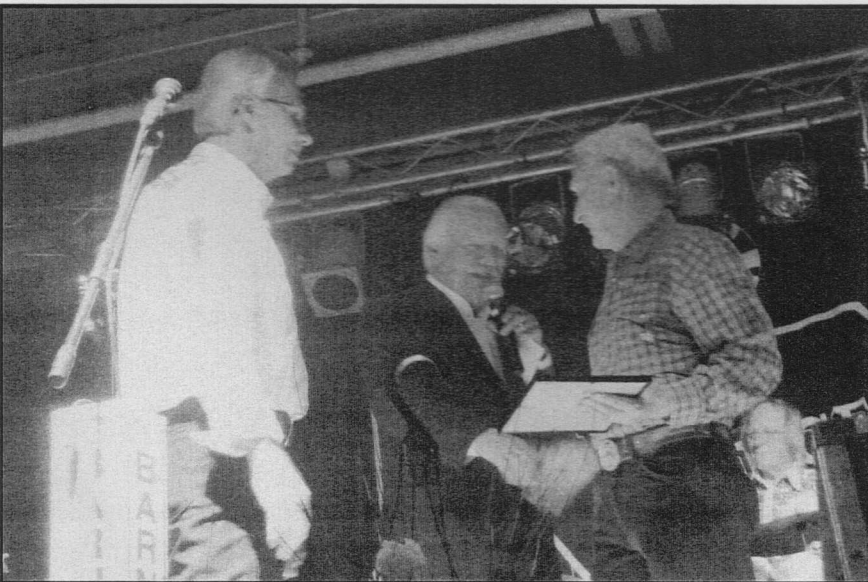
*Ian Leith and Bill Norris playing fiddle together at the 'changing of the fiddlers' at the Blyth Barn Dance.*

There was a tradition performed onstage at the recent Blyth Barn Dance Jamboree Saturday night show. Bill Norris has been a long time fiddler with the Barn Dance Band for many years now, and is retiring from the Barn Dance Band.

Ian Leith, from Durham, will be the new Barn Dance fiddler, taking Bill's place.

Barn Dance M.C. host, Jim Swan prepared everyone in the audience as Bill was presented with a Barn Dance Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service and dedication with the Barn Dance Band. Not unlike a 'passing of the fiddle ceremony', both Bill and Ian played fiddle together onstage with the band to memorialize the occasion.

Ian Leith has played fiddle a few times before with the Barn Dance Band, back when both he and Dan Mighton used to play fiddle together. That was some time ago now, and lately, Ian has been busy with his own business and raising two young boys. Ian also plays drums, but I believe fiddle is his first love, and we're excited about having him on board with the Barn Dance Band. We welcome Ian Leith as the new Barn Dance Band fiddle player and look forward to performing with him at the next Barn Dance shows.



*Barn Dance M.C., Jim Swan, and musical director, Doug Dietrich, honour outgoing Barn Dance fiddler, Bill Norris.*

# MEMORIES FROM THE 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL BLYTH BARN DANCE JAMBOREE



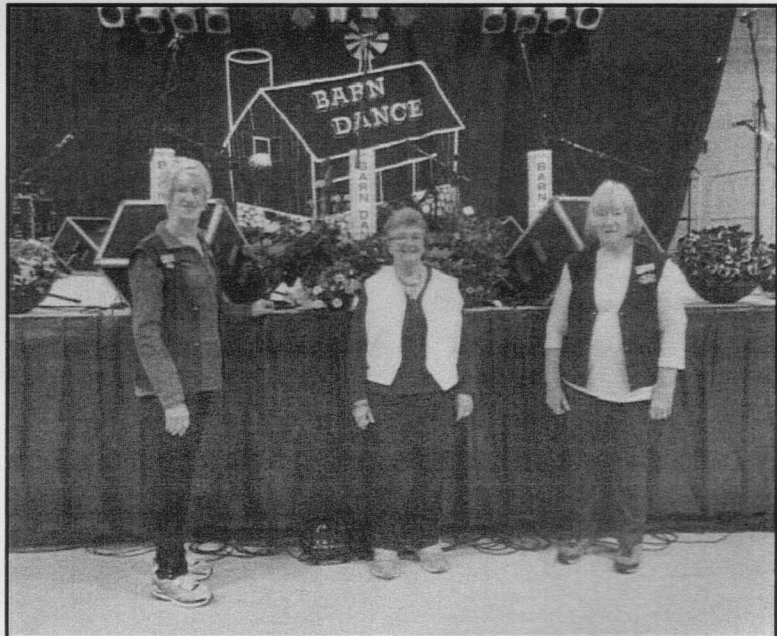
*Young singer/guitarist, Jason Lamont.*



*Thorn and Roses band with, Janna Leduc, guitar/vocals, Katie Korfmann, fiddle/vocals, and Jay Riehl,*



*Fiddler, Brooklyn Hewton.*



*Barn Dance ladies from L to R, Carol Shaw, Marion Mezger, and B.D. Historical Society President, Ruth Baxter, following the decorating of the Barn Dance stage at Blyth.*



← *Bonita Mercer from northern Ontario, puts her heart and soul into some great country songs.*

## COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

- \* **July 4 - 7** - Jamboree in Hollyrood, Corbyville. Call 613-472-5362 for more info.
- \* **July 5 - 7** - Cargill's Pickin' By The Pond Country Music Festival at Cargill Community Centre/Park. Email pickinbythpond@yahoo.com or murie11853@yahoo.com for more info, or visit their website at [www.visitcargill.ca](http://www.visitcargill.ca). Proceeds to community projects, campground opens July 4 at 3 pm. To book campsite call 1-727-943-2512 or email. Line up is as follows; July 5 12pm - 1 pm: Fred Sieffert, Gail Brinkman, Gavin Gardiner, The Country Versatiles, Gerald Davidson, Bryce Butcher, Paul Anthony's Cash Show, Nelson Family Bluegrass, Winterline. Saturday, July 6, 12pm - 1pm; Ray Moffatt, Waylons, Jenning Tribute, Bob Gill, Mandi Craddock, Elena Dobson dancing, Ben Lentir, Naomie Bristow, Bonita Mercer, Ivan Petit, Wendy Lynn Snider, Yesterday's Wine Reunion. Sunday, July 7, 11am Gospel Show.
- \* **July 12 - 15** - Renfrew's bluegrass festival. Call for tickets and more info at 613-432-2414 ext.104.
- \* **July 12 - 14** - Jamboree in Preston Springs. Call 705-696-2268 for more info.
- \* **July 14** - Wolfe Milestone show at the Hensall Circle Legion, Mississauga.
- \* **July 18 - 21** - Jamboree in Norwood. Call 1-800-954-9998 or 705-741-6097 or email [inf@norwoodcountryjamboree.com](mailto:inf@norwoodcountryjamboree.com) or [info@norwoodcountryjamboree.com](mailto:info@norwoodcountryjamboree.com) for more info.
- \* **July 25-28** - Annual Pickin' In The Park, Shelburne. Call Gregg or Heather at 519-925-3037. Bring your musical instruments, lawn chairs, and sun hat for a great weekend of fun and fellowship. Beauty contest Fri. night, and ice cream social. Sat. country music trail trash yard sale Sat. morning from trunk of vehicle and daily raffle.
- \* **July 25 - 28** - Napanee Country Jamboree. Call 613-476-6535 for more info.
- \* **July 26 - 29** - Jamboree in Palmer Rapids. Call 613-758-2747 for more info.
- \* **August 2 - 6** - Flinton Community Jamboree. Call 613-336-3211 for more info.
- \* **August 8 - 11** - Jamboree at the Hitchin' Post, in Grafton. Call 613-393-4013 for more info.
- \* **Aug 1-5** - Tweed stampede and jamboree. Starting at 12pm at 15 Trudeau Lane, Tweed, Ontario.
- \* **Aug 15 - 18** - 30th Anniversary of the Annual Havelock Country Jamboree. Canada's largest live outdoor country music camping festival. Go to their website for the line up [www.havelockcountryjamboree.com](http://www.havelockcountryjamboree.com).
- \* **August 15 - 18** - Jamboree in Havelock. Call 1-800-539-3353 for more info.
- \* **August 22 - 25** - Jamboree in Prince Edward City, Cherryhill. Call 613-476-6535 for more info.
- \* **Aug. 29** - All weekend is the 15th Annual Apple Country Jamboree at the Keeler Centre, 80

Division St, Colborne, ON. Live country music nightly stage shows, open mic, dancing. For more info, Contact Gary Warner at 905-376-3709 or Linda Grills at 905-372-6492 or email [applecountryjamboree.ca](mailto:applecountryjamboree.ca).

- \* **Sept. 5 - 8** - Hollyrood, Corbyville. Call 613-967-9551 for more info.
- \* **Sept 29** - Barn Dance at 2pm in the Community Hall, Formosa.
- \* **Oct. 20** - Barn Dance 3pm in the Commercial Tavern in Maryhill.
- \* **Nov. 24** - Barn Dance at 2 pm in the Hensall Heritage Hall.
- \* **Jamboree** - Camden Lions Club, Centreville. Call 613-379-9972 for more info.
- \* **Planning a Barn Dance Show Band** - Contact Doug Dietrich 519-725-1429. Shows as follows; Sun., Sept. 29 2pm, Community Hall in Formosa, Sun., Oct. 20 3pm at Commercial Tavern in Maryhill, Sun., Nov. 24 2pm at Hensall Heritage Hall.
- \* **For upcoming appearances** - Contact Wolfe Milestone. Music for all occasions, call 647-667-4643. He is nominated for a Josie Award, way to go Wolfe!
- \* **For a weekend to enjoy** - Mostly Sundays country music, contact George Taylor, Anna Taylor and family at 519-46-0538 or email [purplehillcountryhall@gmail.com](mailto:purplehillcountryhall@gmail.com).
- \* **Country music DJ Al Field** - Who plays a lot of Canadian artists, is on the mend after being ill. Thank you Al, you are appreciated for your support.
- \* **Michael T. Wall** - Advises that he had a message from National Music Centre in Calgary, Alberta. That his gold guitar, golf lame suit, gold hat, black boots, red maple leaf guitar strap and other stuff "is sitting pretty."
- \* **For upcoming appearances** - Contact Bonita Mercer, Canadian recording artist. Call 705-898-2710 or go online [bonitamercer.com](http://bonitamercer.com).
- \* **The Nelson Family Bluegrass** - Call them at 519-750-4111 or email [susanelainnelson@hotmail.com](mailto:susanelainnelson@hotmail.com), or visit them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/the-nelson-family-bluegrass-1578818009029574](http://www.facebook.com/the-nelson-family-bluegrass-1578818009029574).
- \* **For upcoming appearances** - Gary Boyle, singles, duos, full band. Phone/fax 519-471-0645.
- \* **Appearance by Doreen Brown** - Thornton Hall, Community Centre, second Tues. of the month. Holland Landing, third Tues., Bond Head, last Tues. of the month. July 25-28 Pickin' In The Park in Shelburne.
- \* **First Sunday of the month** - Warminster Jamboree.
- \* **(Early Reminder) Scott Wood's 'Old Time Christmas 2019 Tour** - Nov. 9 Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 25. Phone 705-945-8721. Dec. 3 at 7pm, unless listed otherwise. Dryden Centre, ON. Phone 1-855-726-8896. Dec. 4, Thunder Bay, C.L.E. Coliseum, call 807-623-9077. Dec. 6, Blind River, Alain Bray Auditorium, call 705-356-2135. Dec. 7 in Parry Sound, call 1-855-726-8896. Dec. 8 in North Bay, at the David Club, call 705-474-4190. Dec. 9 in Shelburne at the Grace Tipling Hall, call 519-925-2600. Dec. 10 in Owen Sound, First United Church, call 1-855-726-8896. Dec. 11 in Fergus at the St Andrews's Presbyterian Church, call 519-843-3565. Dec. 12 in Paris, Paris Agricultural Hall, call 1-855-726-8896. Dec. 13 in Camlachie, ON, Camlachie United Church, call 519-869-4103. Dec. 14 in Beamsville, Profi-

dence Christian Reformed Church, call 905-309-5071. Dec. 15 in Stratford, St Joseph's Parish Hall, call 519-273-5356. Dec 16 in Woodstock College Avenue United Church, call 519-537-6062. Dec. 17 in Courtice, Faith United Church, call 905-433-8953. Dec. 18 in Smiths Falls, Westminster United Church, call 613-285-4281. Dec. 20 in Belleville, St Mathew's United Church, call 613-967-1511. Dec. 21 at 2pm in Milton, Knox Presbyterian Church, call 905-8878-6066. Dec. 22 in Chatham Evangelical Community Church at 2pm, call 226-626-7209.

\* **For country music shows** - Contact the coral, Oshawa, 433 Simcoe St., S., call 905-571-1422 for live country music.

*It is always a pleasure each year to mention our Blyth Campout in May. As the saying goes, the show must go on. Well it sure did, as always, all who contributed time, and the wonderful audience over the weekend, it was super. After all these years, one sees so many beautiful people that come each year to support our country music, it's so special.*

*Have not listed my country music appearances as they were in the last journal and plan to attend most of them. Finally, we are getting some sunshine and wish everyone a wonderful safe and fun summer.*

*Please check the website [www.thebardance.ca](http://www.thebardance.ca) for our annual campout and list of barn dance bands' appearances.*

## 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.
<i>All purchases include HST.</i>	
<i>Please include \$3.00 per item for mailing or pick up at Ernie King Music.</i>	
<i>E-mail: <a href="mailto:webmaster@thebardance.ca">webmaster@thebardance.ca</a></i>	

# BARN DANCE CORNER

by Peter Saros

Though this column will be in your hands and before your eyes after Father's Day, know that it was written on that one day a year set aside exclusively to celebrate dad.

Sometimes having a conversation with the old man to tell him what he has meant to you is unimaginably difficult. Dad might just not be a talker. In some sad situations, dad might not even be around to talk to anymore.

I am hoping offering a list of my personal favourite country songs about parenthood will open a conversation about the caring and complicated relationship many of us have with our fathers.

This list is completely of my own creation, and is in no way related to Billboard chart position, sales figures, or downloads. It isn't even a ranking of the best songs. It is just a list. Simply a list of songs I have heard along the way that have stayed with me over the years. It would make me happy if you knowingly nod at the familiar tunes. It would make me even happier if you took the time to listen to any songs you haven't heard before and see if they touch you as they did me.

"That's My Job" by Conway Twitty (1987) – This song floored me when I first heard it because I had lost my dad one year before its release as a 12 year old in 1986. A song about the changing challenges of fatherhood as children age. Powerfully song as only Conway could. Listen close to the harmonies and

you will recognize a young Vince Gill. Surprisingly this song resonates with my two boys who have been heard singing along with it in my truck

"Daddies Need to Grow Up Too" by The O'Kanes (1986) – A 1987 song written and recorded by the duo made up of Kieran Kane and Jaime O'Hara. It was the third single from their eponymous debut. A tender tale of a father who has failed to live up to the responsibilities of his role. Painfully tender and honest.

"The Kid from Spavinaw" by Tom Russell (2003) – A gorgeous ballad about the life of Mickey Mantle, from humble Oklahoma beginning to playing for the New York Yankees, that somehow becomes a testament a to father's presence and love. The lines that destroy me every time are: "I don't miss the lights of Times Square/I don't miss Toots Shore's Bar/ I miss my old man pitchin' baseball/ Out behind the shed in our backyard/ I wish he were still alive/ To see these trophies on my shelf."

"I Still Can't Say Goodbye" by Chet Atkins (1988) – Songs don't get any harder to listen to than this one. Loneliness echoes throughout this plaintive song about the scars we carry from loss, and the difficulty of living up to our own expectations of a memory. This song was good enough to be recorded by Merle Haggard on his 2005 album *Chicago Wind*.

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**BARN DANCE  
 JAMBOREE/CAMPOUT  
 WINNERS**  
 ☆☆☆☆☆  
**FRIDAY – SHARE THE  
 WEALTH DRAW**  
 ☆☆☆☆☆ **ALBERT BUFFINGA, CLINTON,  
 ON**  
 ☆☆☆☆☆ **DOUG DUERR, MILD MAY, ON**  
 ☆☆☆☆☆  
**SATURDAY – SHARE THE  
 WEALTH DRAW**  
 ☆☆☆☆☆ **DARLENE SMYTH, BLENHEIM  
 MARGARET LETTER,  
 WATERLOO**  
 ☆☆☆☆☆  
**YAMAHA GUITAR, GUITAR  
 CASE AND ACCESSORIES**  
 ☆☆☆☆☆ **MILO WESTLAKE,  
 WELLESLEY, ON**  
 ☆☆☆☆☆

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