



The Barn Dance Opera Journal



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Spring Edition

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BARN DANCE JAMBOREE/CAMPOUT GRAND FINALE

by Grant Heywood

instruments, records and cds also became an attraction. A silent auction and guitar raffle was staged to raise money as well. Entertainer/columnist, Doreen Brown was also there from the beginning. Subtle changes behind the scene transpired with several previous musical directors, until steel guitarist Doug Dietrich took on the task permanently. Ernie King was the host of the Sunday Gospel Show, who handed it to Mary Elliott, and currently to Betty Beer.

The local Lions Club was a great help in staging the Saturday upstairs suppers and operating the bar. Thanks, to the Blyth Steam Threshers who offered their storage barn, so the Barn Dance could put on shows when the Blyth Arena Complex was under renovations. It was a cold weekend as I remember and the barn wasn't insulated, but that didn't deter the fans from coming. At its inception, the Barn Dance shows were hosted by original CKNX Barn Dance MC Johnny Brent. Around the year 2000 or so, Johnny passed the torch to former CKNX commentator, Jim Swan, who continues as the master of ceremonies at each & every Barn Dance show. The Barn Dance was featured on a few television shows in the 90's, and Bob Gibbons (originally from the Wingham area) brought a City TV crew to actually film the Barn Dance Show at Blyth.

When Earl Heywood had a vision of resurrecting the Barn Dance shows in the mid 1990's, he wanted to honour those entertainers who performed on the Barn Dance stage since 1937. To date, over 150 celebrities and workers dedicated to help build & maintain the Barn Dance over the years have received the prestigious Pioneer Award, or the Builders Award and recently the Heritage Award to younger newcomers. The Barn Dance shows became as popular locally, as the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn., and even featured Nashville

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Gordie Tapp, special guest appearance at a Blyth Barn Dance Jamboree Campout.

It is said that all good things come to an end, and reluctantly, the Blyth Barn Dance/Campout Jamboree will be winding down for its 23d annual event this spring. It's hard to believe that this traditional country music weekend has been so popular for so long, for so many. What started & continued as a fundraiser for the Barn Dance Museum in Wingham, became an even larger spectacle of past and present country music entertainment. It connected with people far and wide, just as the original Travelling CKNX Barn Dance did in its heyday. When Barn Dance pioneers, Earl & Martha Heywood, began selling quilts to raise money to start a Barn Dance Museum in Wingham, who would've thought that the Barn Dance shows would continue to delight so many as if to repeat history.

Spearheaded by the late Wayne & Judy Otterbein, they brought the idea to a Barn Dance Historical Society meeting, and before too long the first Blyth Barn Dance

Jamboree/Campout was staged in 1998. Over the years the event grew bigger, and more popular, and began including a bluegrass show on Friday night, Sunday morning gospel show, to go along with the main stage Barn Dance show/dance on Saturday night. The concept originally included two bands on the Saturday night show, featuring Barn Dance & Circle 8 Ranch musicians for half of the show, and a slightly younger new band titled The Millenium Cowboys at the turn of the century in 2020.

As the Jamboree/Campout became more popular, the shows just got bigger and better. The RV/trailer campgrounds would soon fill up sometimes to 300 or more, and they would come early in the week. So an upstairs jam at the arena was instituted for early birds to get their fix, and a Saturday afternoon open stage became popular with many who wanted to have their moment on the main stage. Vendors selling musical



The Editor Speaks by Grant Heywood

Hard to believe we are now living in such uncertain times. The recent COVID 19 Virus has literally paralyzed the whole world.

My greatest fear is not only for Canadians safety but more for the safety of our neighbours to the south, the U.S.A. When such a huge emergency has held the world hostage, this is a time to put political differences aside and work together for a common cause.

I am not pointing a finger at any political institution, nor am I saying Americans are impervious or ignorant. We have that same problem in our own country sometimes.

of Florida, who was too late in shutting down beaches during Spring Break because business is booming at this time.

There are many people in the U.S.A. who are in denial that this pandemic is even happening and going about their business ignoring all safety precautions.

I don't believe most of us have ever gone through or seen such a disruption of this magnitude in the world. We are told that the pandemic will likely recede in a month or two at the most if we all follow the rules of caution.

The fallout after this is over might look like this: some people's jobs won't return, many business's will falter, mass bankruptcies effecting homes & business's, loss of investments, suicides, fear of travelling, fear of going anywhere.

It is not all doom and gloom though. The vast divide between rich & poor will hopefully be corrected. Maybe we'll see a less materialistic world, reasonably price homes, kinder, gentler people, folks that maybe appreciate real life and family and not take it for granted, living within our means, helping the less fortunate, governments that take responsibility for their actions, be more resourceful, the return of respect, and people who appreciate

and participate in local activities, buy local, slow down and enjoy the local artists and musicians who are struggling too.

It may take a few months to get a handle on this, likely another year for a vaccine, but maybe we'll all come out of this with a much brighter perspective on our future, and work together in harmony as we should.

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 or send a message on facebook.

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 Earl Heywood Founder and Honourary President Executive Board: President: Ruth Baxter 1st Vice President: Betty Beer Van Roy 2nd Vice President: Richard Holm Secretary: Ron Coulthard Treasurer: Gord Baxter Directors: Doug Dietrich, Grant Heywood, Carol Shaw, Bill Simmermaker, David Wall, Ron Shaw, Doreen Armbruster and John Smith.

2020 COMING EVENTS

Table with 3 columns: Date, Event Name, Place. Rows include: Sat. April 4 (CANCELLED - to be rescheduled), Sun., May 3 (Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m.), May 21 - 23 (23rd Annual Campout Jamoree), Sun. June 20 (Barn Dance Show - 7:00 p.m.)

Continued from Page 1

entertainers such as Bill Monroe, George Hamilton IV, and others. Many Canadian stars have performed on the Barn Dance stage as well, including, Tommy Hunter, Gordon Lightfoot, Gordie Tapp, Al Cherny, Ward Allen, Larry Mercey and others. The list continues with Marie Bottrell, Paul Weber, Walter Ostanek, Kiley Joe Masson, Michael T. Wall, Jimmy Phair, John & Geneva Heaman, Harold McIntyre, Naomi Bristow, Crystal Gage, Terry Sumsion, Randy Satchell and so many other great entertainers.

The Blyth Barn Dance Campout/Jamboree would not have been able to keep going if not for the likes of sound & lighting crew, Wayne Greve & Scott Taylor & crew, as well as Dave & Marie Wallace, and hats off to the tireless efforts of so many volunteers. We can't thank you enough for all the many hours of work you have done to make this so successful over the years. Everyone on the Barn Dance Historical Society gave of themselves freely to make every year of the Campout/Jamboree the best yet. We have lost friends over the years, who have attended these shows but we've been thankful and proud to continue a tradition and provide first class country music entertainment to everyone for so many years.

All good things must come to an end, but all is not lost. **As this will be the last Blyth Barn Dance Jamboree/Campout, the Travelling Barn Dance Shows will continue on as usual.** So you will still be able to get your traditional country music fix at Barn Dance shows for the foreseeable future.

****PLEASE NOTE:** With the COVID-19 situation curtailing all live events scheduled for April and quite possibly May or beyond, I urge you to please keep informed and safe. It's quite **possible and most likely** if this pandemic continues the Blyth Barn Dance Campout/Jamboree will be cancelled. Unsure if there will be a 'make-up date'. Other Barn Dance events that are cancelled until further notice are listed in the Barn Dance Schedule on page two, of this issue. **The Barn Dance Shows will go on.**

Please check
thebardance.ca
for Barn Dance Shows
& possible cancellations.

SPECIAL COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT

AGM POSTPONED

Members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Barn Dance Society, moved from April 6 to May 4 at 7 p.m. at Carson Meeting Room, 5631 Perth line 86, Listowel. (2 km east of Listowel on Highway 86)

COVID-19 Announcement:

Dear Friends; For those wishing to Preregister for the upcoming Jamboree/Campout, we know that there is a growing concern around the coronavirus (COVID-19) which has everyone feeling uneasy especially as we face more changes to our daily routines and future plans.

Given this uncertainty, we will NOT be depositing your cheque at this time. We will hold your cheque and wait to deposit same until near the end of April to ensure that we can proceed with our event. Should you feel uncomfortable attending our event due to COVID-19, please notify us NOT later than May 1st, 2020 and we will return your cheque(s). Thank You for your patience and understanding. Ruth Baxter, President

BARN DANCE JOURNAL

ADVERTISING PRICES

Business Card Size - \$25.00 plus HST

1/4 Page - \$75.00 plus HST

1/2 page - \$150.00 plus HST

Full Page (inside) - \$275.00 plus HST

Full Page (back cover) - \$300.00 plus HST

All prices are per issue.

E-mail - webmaster@thebardance.ca

NEWS & NOTES

♪ On March 3d, an EF-3 tornado ripped through a part of Nashville, Tenn., during the evening hours. The tornado wrecked hundreds of buildings, 48 buildings collapsed, and at least 150 were taken to hospital. 24 died in this tragic act of nature. It was just a few years ago that Nashville was hit by flooding. The country music community rallied to help the victims of this recent tornado.

♪ Award winning singer, Kenny Rogers, known for hits like *The Gambler* & *Lucille*, passed away at age 81 from natural causes. Rogers sang in a duet with Dolly Parton in the well-known hit song *Islands In the Stream*. A celebration of Kenny Roger's life is being planned for a later date.

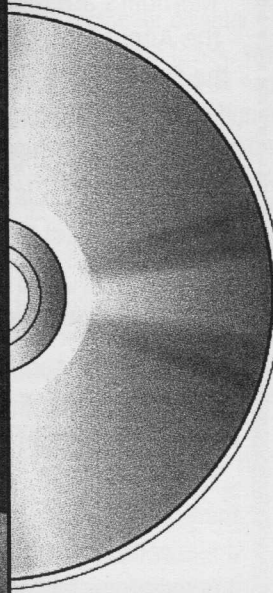
♪ With the COVID-19 Virus sweeping the world, absolutely everything has come to a screeching halt. Nobody's performing or touring until this pandemic is officially eradicated. The last Grand Ole Opry show was performed recently without an audience.

♪ Please be aware that musicians are now streaming or showing live video of themselves on YouTube and Facebook. It is an outlet for the musicians and an opportunity for others to still enjoy live music via social media. Let these performers know you are watching and show your appreciation with a like or comment.

THE BARN DANCE MUSEUM

The Barn Dance Museum at 273 Josephine St. Wingham, is **temporarily closed** until further notice. Sorry for the inconvenience.

CD REVIEW PAUL NEWELL SOMETHING OLD SOMETHING NEW



Paul Newell is no stranger to country music in southwestern Ontario. Besides playing with Fred Lewis's *Ridin' High* band, Paul has also played with Amberley Beatty's *Loretta Lynn and Patsy Cline* tributes, and *The Highwaymen* tribute act as well. When Paul puts on his songwriting/producer hat, you know that he's spent a lot of time working on some country music gems.

Some of the 14 songs on this cd are genuine country classics, while others are relatively new, and some are original songs by Paul, and by friends like Peter Sisk and Jeff Gallagher. Paul does an outstanding rendition of Eddy Arnold's *Big Bouquet of Roses*, followed by Ray Price's *For the Good Times*. It almost sounds like Paul has been singing these tunes, most of his life, and he likely has. There is some nice guitar work by Paul on *Lonesome 77203*, as well as other cuts. I really enjoyed Paul's original, *Stone In the Ground*, as it's a true country song, with well written lyrics and melody,

that almost everyone can relate to.

The fiddle and steel guitar do a masterful job on the Leroy Van Dyke tune *Walk On By*, and Paul hits a home run with the Ray Price classic, *Way To Survive*, as Paul really shines on the older country tunes. The haunting song, *Forgotten Coast* by Jeff Gallagher, is a pleasant, but subtle folkly diversion on this disc. Paul has always been a great country vocalist and saves the best for last with his strongest vocal delivery yet, on *Walk On Out*, which happens to be one of my favourites on this cd.

Musicians include, Clayton Barker & John Givens on fiddle, Don Mills on drums, Dale Rivard on steel/dobro, Kenny Groomes on banjo and Paul Newell on guitar, bass, piano, keys, & mandolin. Produced by Paul Newell, this cd is a fine example of what real country music sounds like, especially by someone as gifted as Paul. Glad to call him a friend. Information where you can purchase this cd at: www.bigcountrypaulnewell.com

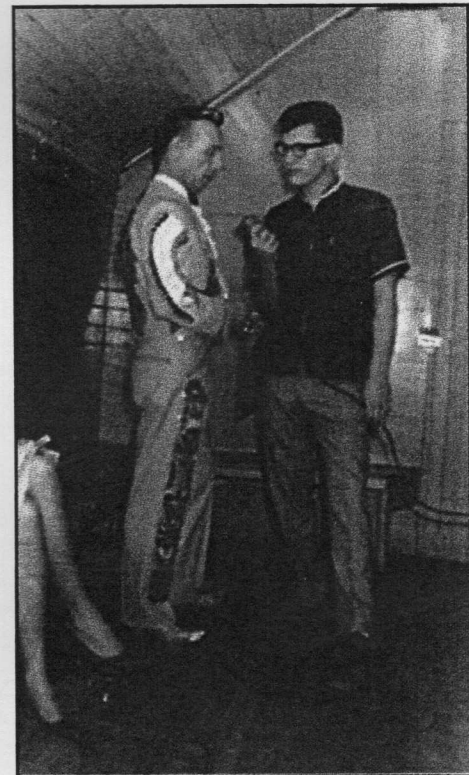
BARN DANCE SOUVENIRS

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.

All purchases include HST.

Please include \$3.00 per item for mailing
or pick up at Ernie King Music.

E-mail: webmaster@thebardance.ca



Our Barn Dance MC Jim Swan's first
celebrity interview was Hank Snow in

1963



Marilynne Caswell



Hank at the Caswell's home in London, 1966.



Marilynne with Hank Snow on his tour bus.

MARILYNNE CASWELL

A MUSICIAN'S BEST FRIEND

by Doug Dietrich

One of the benefits of the music business, is the opportunity to meet and work with many different people in the industry. It's a chance to develop new friendships, even with people you may only see a handful of times a year, and sometimes only while performing on stage. Someone who shares a love and passion for the music and understands the roots of the music and what it takes to promote it. For me, one of those friendships is a wonderful lady named Marilynne Caswell.

Marilynne was born in Dashwood, Ontario but moved to London with her family at the age of sixteen. She always had an attraction to country music. Stuart Hamblen (with his hit song "It Is No Secret") was an early favourite of hers and was the first autograph Marilynne managed to secure. Several years later, she and a friend saw Hank Snow live and immediately became loyal fans.

Marilynne met and married Joe Caswell, who shared her love of music. They attended a Hank Snow concert at the London Gardens where they had an opportunity to meet Hank after the show. It's been said that Hank was not always a very friendly man, but he took a liking to Marilynne and Joe. As it turns out, that was the start of a long friendship with Hank Snow that lasted until his death in 1999 at the age of 85.

For years Marilynne was an active fan of country music and wrote music reviews. In the early 70's Marilynne took her love and knowledge of country music to a different level when she became a booking agent. In 1972, with a letter of recommendation from Saul Holiff (who managed stars like Johnny Cash, George Jones, the Statler Brothers and Tommy Hunter) she earned her booking license and established the M.C. Talent Agency. Marilynne became very successful booking names like Terry Carisse, Myrna Lorrie, Marie Bottrell and Terry Sumsion to name just a few. One of her proudest achievements was booking an Australian band named the Hawking Brothers for a tour in Ontario and a week in Nashville in the mid 70's. She was the kind of agent and is the kind of person that is honest, supportive and always had your best interest at heart. At her peak, she was nominated a few times as Agent of the Year for the Canadian Country Music Awards - - quite the honour! She

was also very instrumental in the BX-93 Country Roads Concert Series in the early 1980's.

Marilynne's husband, Joe hosted a highly rated radio show, called Country Corner, on CFPL in London from 1973 to 1976. In addition to interviewing local country music artists, Joe frequently had interviews with touring country celebrities. Hank Snow and other Nashville entertainers were regular guests not only on the radio show but also in the Caswell home. Over the years, Marilynne has kept a guest book of visitors in their home which I was fortunate enough to see when visiting her in Brantford. It reads like a who's who of country music - Hank Snow, Mickey Gilley, the Louvin Brothers, Skeeter Davis, Tex Ritter, Red Sovine and many more. When Patsy Cline and Cowboy Copas visited, Patsy wrote "great seeing you again". This was ten months to the day before they both died in a plane crash.

She has a room full of memorabilia and loves to tell the stories that go with them. The collection includes an acoustic guitar that Hank Snow gave to her husband and was autographed "To Joe with Best Wishes, Hank Snow, 6-6-1966" The guitar still has the original strings! It is easy to spend hours in that room with Marilynne and get lost in the memories. I recommend checking Marilynne's Facebook page and viewing the many interesting photos she has posted.

Unfortunately, Joe died much too young in 1984 but his memory lives on in the many friendships that he and Marilynne developed in the music business. Marilynne is retired and lives in Brantford. She still lends her support as a regular at country music events and is often in the crowd at Paul Weber's Commercial Tavern. It is easy to see she still has the love, understanding and appreciation for the music and will always be viewed as an important contact and friend for all of us musicians. Marilynne fosters the true spirit of the music in the same way the Barn Dance Historical Society tries to do. She has a saying, "*Music is like a tree, if you cut off the roots, the tree will die.*"



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MEMORIES FROM YEARS PAST AT THE BLYTH BARN DANCE JAMBOREE CAMPOUT



On stage with Judy and Wayne Otterbein, who brought the idea for the Blyth Barn Dance Jamboree Campout to the Barn Dance Historical Society.



Circle 8 Ranch stars, Ernie King and Hughie Elder with the Circle 8 Ranch guitar for raffle.



Beth Elder, Carol Johnson, and Martha Heywood at the Blyth Barn Dance Jamboree Campout merchandise table.



Canada's No. 1 singing cowboy, Earl Heywood, presenting singer/songwriter Lynn Russwurm, with the Barn Dance Pioneer Award in Blyth.



Lloyd Otterbein (dobro), at the Byth Barn Dance Jamboree Campout Saturday afternoon open stage.



Ward Allen's Maple Sugar, performed by Barn Dance fiddlers; Vic Pasowisty, Mike Slauenwhite, and guest fiddler, Randy Morrison, at the Blyth Barn Dance Jamboree Campout.

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@thebarndance.ca



Country Calendar

by Doreen Brown
(Toronto and
surrounding area)

- * **April 16** - Whisky Jack will have a belated 7th Anniversary Celebration at Zoomer Hall, Toronto. The Show will be streamed on the entertainment and broadcast line on AM740 and 96.7 FM.
- * **April 18** - Sound Travels Entertainment Presents Lion's Centre, in Port Hope. Country Dances \$15.00 per person. Call John McDermott 905-393-8255 or Jim McIlmoy 905-375-2800 or email at mcilmoyle31@gmail.com
- * **April 30** - 50th Anniversary Concert, starring Carroll Baker, Canada's Country Sweetheart with 21 hits. Special guest, Jerry Palmer. Starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Auditorium in Thunder Bay. For tickets go online at www.tbca.com or call 807-684-4444.
- * **May 21 - 24** - Annual Barn Dance Campout, in Blyth, ON. Visit their website at www.thebardance.com for more details.
- * **May 28 - 31** - Quinte Isle Bluegrass Festival in Cherry Valley, ON. Call 613-970-8998 for more.
- * **June 19 - 21** - Tickets now on sale for Tottenham Bluegrass Festival. Buy online at tottenhambluegrass.ca To mail cheques to PO Box Tottenham, Ont. PG1 WO or call 647-209-2593.
- * **June 11 to 14** - Crowe Valley Jamboree in Marmora, ON. Call 613-472-5362 for more.
- * **June 11 - 14** - Bluegrass in The Country in Manitoulin Island. Call 705-282-8158 for more info.
- * **June 19 - 21** - Tottenham Bluegrass in Tottenham, ON. Call 888-886-4566 for more info.
- * **June 26 - 28** - Nelson Family Bluegrass Jamboree in Brant, ON. Call 519-750-4111 for more.
- * **July 2 - 5** - Hollywood Country Jamboree in Corbyville, ON. Call 613-067-9551 for more details.
- * **July 2 - 5** - River Valley Country and BG. Call 795-758-9049 for more information.
- * **July 3 - 5** - Lakefield Country Jamboree in Lakefield, ON. Call 705-760-3583 for more info.
- * **July 3 - 5** - Pickin' by the Pond in Cargill, ON. Go online at www.visitcargill.ca for more information.
- * **July 9 - 12** - Napanee Country Jamboree. Call 613-476-6535 for more information.
- * **July 9 - 12** - Valley Bluegrass. Call 613-

432-0092 for more information.

- * **July 10 - 12** - Preston Springs Country Jamboree in Hastings, ON. Call 705-696-2268 for more.
- * **July 16-19** - Norwood Country Jamboree at 48 Alma St., Norwood Fair Grounds. Go online at www.norwoodcountryjamboree.com or call 1-800-654-9998 or 705-741-6097 for more info.
- * **July 16 - 19** - Big River Country Festival in Mallorytown, ON. Call 343-264-2468 for more.
- * **July 18** - Big Sky Country Festival Burl's Creek, in Medonte, ON.
- * **July 23 - 26** - Palmer Rapids Twin Music Festival in Palmer Rapids, ON. Call 613-758-2747.
- * **July 28** - Warkworth Music Festival. Call 613-475-3179 for more information.
- * **July 23 - 25** - Open Fiddle and Step Dance Contest in Bobcaygeon, ON. Call 905-441-8112 for more details.
- * **July 23 - 26** - Pickin' In The Park in Shelburne, Ont. Call 519-925-3037 for more information.
- * **July 23 -26** River Valley Bluegrass Jamboree. Call 705-758-9049 for more information.
- * **July 24 - 26** - Georgina Country festival in Keswick, ON. Call 905-476-8834 for more info.
- * **Aug 13 - 16** - 31st edition of the Havelock Country Jamboree with Chris Janson, Tim Hick, Aaron Tippin, Sammy Kershaw and Colin Ray, Dan Davidson Blue Rodeo MacKenza. For more details, go online at www.havelockjamboree.com or call 1-800-539-3353.
- * **Every Wednesday** - The Seniors Centre in Markdale, ON. has a jam session from 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.
- * **Third Thursday of the month** - Holland Landing Community Centre, 905-473-7072, dancing, some square dancing, coffee and treats available as folks bring them.
- * **First Wed. of the Month** - Jamboree at 517 Tennyson Ave., Kingside Park, Oshawa, ON.
- * **Third Thurs. of the Month** - Holland Landing Community Centre Dear Qws od rhw monrh Bracebridge Active Living Centre.
- * **Come Out Anytime** - Visitors are always welcome, Army, Navy and Airforce Vets Club, 765 Third Street, Mississauga, ON call 905-274-3821. Live bands and dancing every Saturday night and much more.
- * **Purple Hill Country Opry** - Email purplehillcountryhall@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page www.facebook.com/PurpleHillCountryHall or phone 519-461-0538.
- * **Creekside Bar and Grill** - South Frontenac Township, ON. Landon Martin 2-4 Sundays. Fred Lewis appears monthly at Ricks Tavern, London, ON. Tom Dupjy's 4-

7, 370 Richmond St, London, ON.

- * **Gary Hooper** - Congratulations to Country Entertainer, Gary Hooper, who recently was inducted into New Brunswick Country Music Hall Of Fame, Way to go, Gary!
- * **Naomi Bristow** - The Yodlin' Cowgirl. For upcoming appearances, call 905-729-0956 or go online at www.naomibristow.com
- * **A New Book** - "Rock Hill Park" from 1951 to 1985. Featured country bands from Canada and USA. Some of the following; Michael T. Wall and his band, Downhomers, Wilf Carter, Hank Snow Brent Williams, Chef Adams; George Pasher, Wolfe Milestone, Mercey Brothers, Tommy Hunter, Doc Williams, Willie Nelson; King Ganam, Tex Ritter, Waylon Jennings, Shania Twain, Stompin' Tom, Kitty Wells, Ferlin Huskey, Grandpa Jones and several others.
- * **Amberley Beatty** - For upcoming appearances, call 519-669-3982.
- * **Appearances by Doreen Brown** - Blyth Annual Campout, Holland Landing, third Thursday; Pickin' In The Park, Norwood Country Jamboree, Tottenham Bluegrass, judging on Children's Talent Show.
- * **Guydith Jamborees** - At the Victory Legion, 311 Oakland Ave., London, ON. June 23, July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 22, Oct. 27 and Nov. 24 for open mic.
- * **Hitchin Post** - In Grafton ON, call 905-396-4013 for more information.

Being a very proud Canadian, wanted to share my latest news. Our Canada Magazine just did a Showcase on me in the April/May issue, 4 pages with pictures. It can be purchased at Shopper's Drug Mart stores.

Wishing all a wonderful healthy, happy, and safe country music summer.

**ALL EVENTS DEPENDENT ON THE
COVID 19 BAN BEING LIFTED**



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BARN DANCE CORNER

by Peter Saros

Trying to make sense of what is happening with this Coronavirus isn't easy. Doesn't a pandemic always seem senseless? The fear, confusion, and anxiety is inherently nonsensical.

The Barn Dance is no less removed from being up against this challenge than any other organization, business, or family. The reach of this threat is real. I received an email from Grant Heywood sharing the troubles facing the Barn Dance Museum and the Blyth Barn Dance Campout Jamboree. The museum is still homeless, and the jamboree is without an operator and manager for the event after this year. Given the current state of affairs, there is no promise this year's jamboree in May will even happen.

How does the Barn Dance find balance on such unsteady ground? I don't know, but I do have a feeling that if the Barn Dance family is to make any of this sensible, it will literally be through our senses: sight, smell, sound, taste, and touch.

In darkness we need to look for the

light. That is our job. Once even one of us finds it we need to carry it high. The Bible tells us in *The Gospel According to Matthew*, "No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Light is a sign of kindness, goodness, and hope to others.

Smell is supposedly the sense most strongly associated with memory. Crack open an old paperback novel, sniff a box of crayons, or pull out the sleeve on a vinyl record and tell me where the smells takes you. A stew simmering on the stove, or boiling potatoes knocking at the lid of a pot, are the perfumes of safety, family and home. The smell of our daily bread makes us feel secure.

Tune into the Grand Ole Opry to listen what strength and hope sounds like. The Opry, the longest continuously running radio show in the world is still broadcasting

on radio, and will now broadcast on television in front of an empty Opry House. Fans can also watch the performance on the Opry's YouTube page or visit them online at: <https://www.opry.com/>.

Nothing is sweeter on the lips than prayers of hope or kind words. May we taste them often and always hunger for their nourishing flavour.

And finally, touch. How do we touch when we are told to socially distance ourselves from the world? I loved the Oakridge Boys as a kid and have rediscovered their charms as an adult through their recent albums. Do you remember their 1985 cover of the Staple Singers' hit "Touch a Hand, Make a Friend?" We can touch others through the hard work of opening our heart to a scared world.


We can make sense of this.

Keep the faith.

The show must go on....

Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance

23rd Annual



BARN DANCE JAMBOREE/CAMPOUT

May 21, 22, 23, 24, 2020

Saturday Barn Dance Stage Show Featuring
 Larry Mercey
 Naomi Bristow
 Paul Weber
 Randy Satchell
 MC - Jim Swan
 The Barn Dance Band

Bluegrass Show
 The Commercial Bluegrass Band

CAMPING PACKAGES AND ARMBANDS FOR ALL EVENTS AVAILABLE AT DOOR

SPONSORED BY THE BARN DANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 BOX 68
 WINGHAM, ON
 N0G 2W0

May 21st - 7PM Campers Jam
May 22nd - 7:30PM - Bluegrass Show
May 23rd - 7:30PM
Barn Dance Stage Show & Dance
May 24th - 10AM - Gospel Show

www.thebardance.ca
 Call 519-530-8000 or email barndance2013@gmail.com