

# The Barn Dance Opera Journal

*Official Publication of:*  
**The Barn Dance Historical Society Inc.  
and Entertainment Museum**

A Not For Profit Organization

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**Summer Edition**

**1**

## ***100 Years - A Tribute to a Canadian Fiddle Legend***

# **TOMMY McQUESTON**

*Lorne I. Greenwood  
Markdale, Ontario*

Tommy McQuestion, a Canadian fiddle legend, passed away on February 27, 2002 in his 100th year after a brief bout with the flu. He had played for old time dances throughout Ontario with such orchestras as Norm Graham and his Harvesters, Russ Creighton and his Haybailers, and George Wade and his Cornhuskers. In the 1930s he was playing a weekly one hour program on the CBC National Radio Network with the Cornhuskers, and recorded with them for RCA on the old 78s. His day job was as a mechanic for the Toronto Transit Commission where he worked for 39 years.

Tommy was born and raised in Ballymoney, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, an area known for its old-time fiddlers. One of these, James Patterson, started Tommy off in the oral tradition but he soon moved on to Billy Clark who taught him how to read music. Tommy was just six years of age when he began his lessons and was playing for dances by the time he was 10, after three years with Billy Clark.

When he emigrated to Canada in 1924, Tommy took further lessons for three and one half years at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and was again playing for dances in 1929 as knowledge of his fiddle playing spread. Besides the usual jigs, reels, hornpipes and country dances, Tommy was also a master of the Scottish pastoral airs and strathspeys, and played them all with his skillful and distinct style of bowing. In his own words from an interview I had with him some years ago, Tommy said: "What I do with the bow is traditional over there (Ireland). They snap the bow, we call it a cut. But we play four notes in its execution." Tommy's rhythm and timing was so flawless that the dancers' feet would respond almost involuntarily.

Tommy liked to test his skills in competition and became well known in contest circles.

He has won more than 100 trophies through the years and donated 75 of these, along with a fiddle and bow, to the King Township museum not far from his home in King City, Ontario.

Over the years, Tommy taught a number of aspiring young fiddle players, the most notable being the undefeated Canadian and North American fiddle champion, the late Graham Townsend, who always held his former teacher in the highest regard. "He should have recorded his own fiddle album," Graham once said, "He's a much better fiddle player than some who have recorded albums." Tommy taught Graham for about two and one half years, beginning when Graham was about seven years old. His father brought him, Tommy said, because of Graham's poor eyesight Tommy would write out the notes in an oversized notation but as Tommy said, "Graham would

learn mostly by ear and have two jigs and a reel off perfect each week."

Tommy was playing almost to the end. In his later years when his fingering arm became too sore for a 4 hour stretch of playing at dances his wife, Janet, (artist and Scottish country dancer) rigged up a resting pad on a camera tripod to keep him going. As always, the fiddle and Tommy were one as reflected in his facial expressions of joy. Although he didn't record a fiddle album, some of us, including this writer who played backup piano with Tommy

for many years, can take comfort in our own amateur recording to relive some of those precious moments.

Tommy was inducted into the Canadian Fiddlers Hall of Fame in 1987, at a ceremony held in St. Catharines, Ont. with honoured Grammy award winning accordion player, Walter Ostenak attending as a presenter.

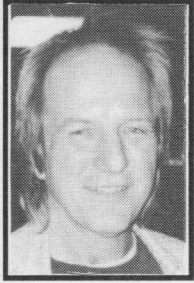
The writer, Lorne Greenwood, has received numerous awards in the old time country music field. He was presented with the "Pauline McGibbon Life Achievement In The Arts Award" in 1996 and was inducted into "America's Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame" in 2001.



*Canadian fiddle legend, TOMMY McQUESTION, seen here with piano accompanist and friend, Lorne Greenwood, in the background.*

## The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



know that we're giving you what you want and keeping the Barn Dance tradition alive.

We're running a picture contest this summer. If you have attended any Barn Dances over the last little while, then the answers should be a breeze. If you're stuck, phone someone else who might know. Have fun and GOOD LUCK!!

I hope everyone has a great summer. Please come out to a Barn Dance again soon. Tell your friends or neighbours and bring them along. Show them what good fun and entertainment value they've been missing. Visit the Barn Dance Entertainment Museum in Wingham this summer. It's a real trip down memory lane, and only costs a "toonie". For information regarding the museum, please phone (519) 357-2160.

Comments? We'd love to hear from you!

Grant Heywood,  
5584 Deborah Glaister Line, R. R. #2,  
Wellesley, Ont. N0B 2T0  
Phone: (519) 656-2552  
Fax: (519) 656-9970  
E-mail: heywoods@golden.net

Thanks to everyone who braved the cool weather and came out to make our 5th Annual Blyth Campout Jamboree Weekend a rousing success. Hopefully, the new facilities will be ready for next years Barn Dance Jamboree. Although, the shed kind of gave it that real "Barn Dance" feeling, didn't it? The bluegrass performance on Friday evening and the Saturday afternoon jamboree were nearly jammed, and the Sunday morning gospel program hosted by Ernie King, was very well attended. I had a lot of comments from many folks who thoroughly enjoyed the Saturday night show. Many people said it just keeps getting better year after year. That's what we like to hear, and we truly appreciate your comments. It lets us

## BARN DANCE MUSEUM

In April 1996, we opened our Museum to our membership as well as the general public. Our ceremony involved politicians, our executive and of course a speech from our founder, Earl Heywood.

The displays include items from Al Cherny, Ward Allen, Earl Heywood, The Mercey Brothers, as well as pictures and stories of many, many more. You'll learn about Doc Cruickshank, the man who brought radio and television to Midwestern Ontario. We have a P.A. system built by Scott Reid and used by the Ranch Boys in the 1940's. More is being added all the time.

In the years since our opening, we have shared smiles and memories with visitors from all over Ontario. The interest from the public continues to grow along with our enthusiasm as we collect more memorabilia and add more displays.

The Barn Dance Historical Society is pleased to invite you to include a stop at our museum as part of your itinerary of interesting places to visit. Located directly behind the Town Hall Heritage Theatre in Wingham, it is open to coincide with all related performances there, as well as any other time, year round by appointment by calling (519) 357-2160.

We have regular hours until Aug. 17 which are: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm; Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. After August 17 please call for an appointment.

Our admission is a modest Toonie per person.

For more information please call or write to: **Barn Dance Historical Foundation and Entertainment Museum, Box 68, Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0**

## The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum

P.O. Box 68

Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

Phone (519) 357-2160

(or leave a message)

**BARN DANCE WEBSITE:**

<http://www.barndance.ca>

Earl Heywood

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Dave Hedley, Verna Steffler,

Doug Dietrich, Earl Heywood,

and Dave Wall.

## BARN DANCE BEAT

The Travelling Barn Dance has been busy since the last newsletter with a St. Patrick's Day show in Wingham and shows and dances in Woodstock and the Blyth Campout.

While attendance was disappointing at the Wingham show, the show itself, featuring Jay Riehl and Jake Leiske from Farmer's Daughter certainly did not disappoint anyone. Jake and Jay delighted the audience with a wide range of songs from gospel to bluegrass. A very talented young group called Celtic Fire added a touch of St. Paddy's Day to the show. Eight year old Allison Walker charmed the people with her vocal talents and poise on stage.

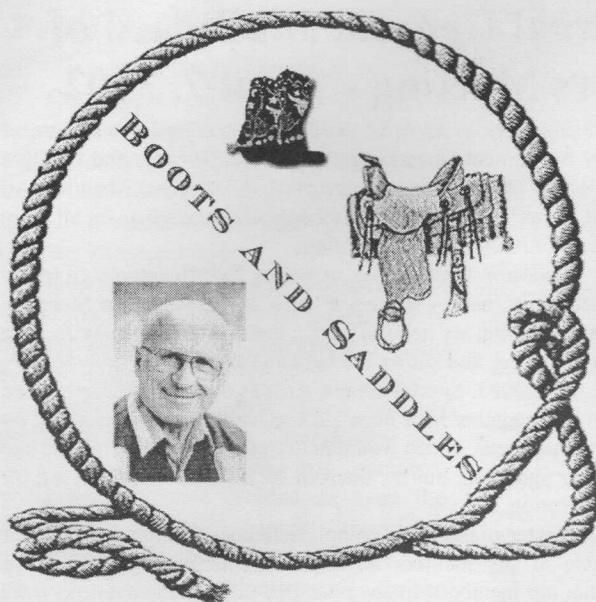
In late April, the Barn Dance travelled to Woodstock for a show sponsored by the Eastwood United Church. The show featured several youth acts - fiddlin' Dan Mighton, the sweet harmonies of the Meister sisters and the powerful vocals of Jennifer Marino. The vocals of Brian Schlotzhauer from London were featured. Barn Dance veterans Earl & Martha Heywood and the Otterbein Family also entertained. Country music veteran J. Brian Oakes closed the show with some country standards and some fine impersonations of favourite country stars.

The Blyth Campout show featured Bill Simmermaker, The Heywood Family, Kevin Westphall, Jackie Ralph, Bill Murray, Lynn Russwurm, Gary Boyle, Al Widmeyer and Pam Armstrong. See you at the next Barn Dance Show.

Hope to see you at an upcoming show. Check the newsletter or our website for further information.

**Music Director, Doug Dietrich**





by Lynn Russwurm

This time around we're going to take a look at yodellers. Yodelling has always been a strong part of country music since Jimmie Rodgers laid down his first tracks in 1927. Although he saved his "Blue Yodel" till his second session, figuring to get a foothold first and then hit them with his ace in the hole. And he was right, when "Blue Yodel" was released it took the country by storm. There had been a few yodellers before Jimmie, they were very crude compared to the great Jimmie Rodgers. He took yodelling to heights that were never dreamed of before and inspired many to follow in his footsteps.

One of these was a contemporary by the name of Gene Autry. Gene covered most of Jimmie's releases interspersed with some of his own songs for several years until he hit the jackpot with his own "Silver Haired Daddy of Mine". Thereafter the covers became less frequent and after he hit the silver screen, Gene was his own man. He was a regular on the National Barn Dance, which was owned by Sears-Roebuck, who gave Gene a tremendous boost in their catalogues by selling millions of his Conqueror records which they owned. From there it was a simple step into the movies in Republic Pictures which was also tied in with Sears-Roebuck.

Other yodellers of the day included Jimmie Davis, Cliff Carlisle, Stuart Hamblen, and many more. Also, many of these paid tribute to Jimmie Rodgers after his death on record with such songs as "The Death of Jimmie Rodgers", "When Jimmie Rodgers said Goodbye". Then along came a young Texan who recorded "The Passing of Jim-

mie Rodgers" and "The Last Thoughts of Jimmie Rodgers". On this recording Mrs. Rodgers gave him Jimmie's own guitar to use on the recording. This young man's name was Ernest Tubb, complete with a Jimmie Rodgers style yodel, however his record didn't stir up much attention and he had to wait a few more years for stardom until he hit big with "Walking the Floor Over Your", although he did manage to co-star in several movies with Charles Starrett, The Durango Kid. Ernest lost his ability to yodel when he had his tonsils removed.

There was another young yodeller working out of California with "The Original Beverly Hillbillies" that was becoming very popular on radio and personal appearance even though he was still in his teens. At one point Jimmie Rodgers happened to hear him and brought word back to his A & R man with RCA along with the statement that this young yodeller would "make bums out of us all". Well this young singer was Elton Britt and he did turn yodelling upside down with his fancy and high yodelling that were pretty hard to surpass. He had a big hit with "Chime Bells" among others, but his biggest hit by far was a 1942 war song "There's A Star Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere" which was the first official country music million seller.

Patsy Montana, one of the earliest female yodellers was also a member of the National Barn Dance out of WLS in Chicago who did extensive work with The Prairie Ramblers. She composed and recorded "I Want to be a Cowboy's Sweetheart" which also was a million seller, although unofficial, since there was no such thing until later. Many of today's female country singers use this as a stepping stone today to get a foothold in the business such as Suzy Boggus and Leanne Rimes. Other female yodellers included Rosalie Allen who recorded many yodelling duets with Elton Britt and was host to a highly popular radio show, emanating out of New York City. Some of our other great country stars yodelled in the early stages of their career such as Red Foley, who was an excellent yodeller, Rex Allen, one of the greatest who later played Frontier Doctor on his own TV series. Both these artists were also with the

National Barn Dance, which was really the hotbed of pure country music, even more so that the Grand Ole Opry in the early days. Then there was Leonard Slye, with the Sons of the Pioneers who did a lot of yodelling on records and transcriptions with the early Sons, of course he became known as Roy Rogers, The King of the Cowboys. Then along came Kenny Roberts who replaced Bill Haley with the Downhomers. Kenny was probably the fastest of the trick yodellers of all, and is still active today.

Here in Canada we had some great yodellers who could hold their own with any of the yodellers from south of the border. Several were stars on our own CKNX Barn Dance. Who could ever forget Jack Kingston and his "Yodelling Cowboy". When Earl Heywood went on tour across the east part of Canada in 1952, Jack's featured song on all the shows was a song I had written for him called "Song of the Yodelling Bells". Jack put a yodel with it and performed it every night on the tour, one of my great regrets is that Jack never got to record this song. Although she had a reasonably short stay with the Barn Dance, young Terry Parker was a superb yodeller and you can hear her on "It's The Saturday Night Barn Dance Vol. 1", singing "Wide Rolling Plains" and you'll see what I mean. Then there was Donn Reynolds, who made a number of appearances on the show, who is in the Guinness Book of Records for World's Highest Yodeler, and for yodelling longer than anyone else. Other Canadian yodellers would include Shirley Field, who has won many awards for yodelling, here and in the U.S. Even today Shirley can be found at Cowboy and Yodelling festivals all across North America. At one time in the 1970's, The Shirley Field Show was a regular mainstay in this area such as the Listowel Twin Gables, The Hanover Inn and many other stops across Canada.

That about takes all my space for this time, and next time I think we'll take a further look at yodelling and maybe go across the sea to Australia and other places,

326 Josephine St., Wingham (519) 357-2811



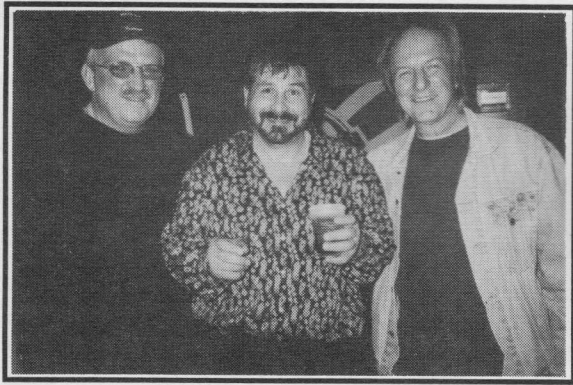
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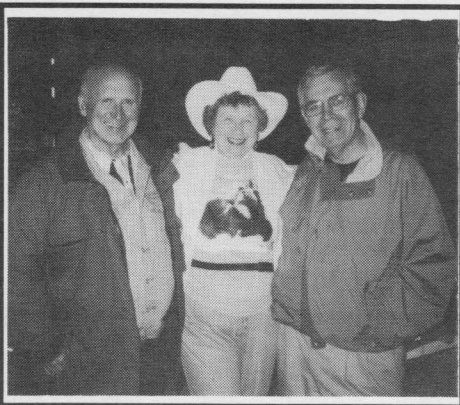
70 Courthouse Sq., Goderich (519) 524-4689



*Caught behind the microphone stand during the grand finale (I Saw The Light) at the 5th Annual Blyth Barn Dance Campout Jamboree. Picture from L to R is Blyth Jamboree organizer/performer, Smilin' Bill Simmermaker and the "Blue Collar Canuck" Kevin Westphall.*



*On a recent trip to Nashville, Al Widmeyer, left, and Grant Heywood, right, got to spend some time with Cajun legend, Jo-El Sonnier (middle) after a performance at the Veterans Hall in Nashville.*



*Pictured here at the recent Blyth Barn Dance Campout Jamboree, are columnists and performers, Lynn Russwurm (left), Doreen Brown (centre), and Bill Oja (right).*

## The Annual General and Board of Directors Meeting - April 7, 2002

As always on the first Sunday in April, we held a meeting of the Board of Directors, followed by the Annual General Meeting of our Society, and finally a meeting of the new Board of Directors as elected at the General Meeting. All Directors were present, as well as a number of other Society members, at all three meetings. Here's a brief summary of the proceedings.

President Shirley Russwurm outlined our successes and frustrations in trying various fund raising strategies, and in seeking a better location for our Museum. Prospects for this look promising; we hope to have a definite site and moving date soon. A number of Barn Dances and shows are booked for this year, and we have some promising inquiries re 2003. Special events, such as our Blyth Campout and our Fiddle Convention in September have been quite successful. We're working on an application for charitable status, which would help us to obtain more private and corporate funding for our operation. Shirley thanked the members of the Board for their hard work and dedication.

Treasurer Gordon Baxter presented a complete financial report for the year 2001. (Details available to any member on request). Membership chairperson David Hedley noted that our membership has remained fairly static over the years of our operation. Grant Heywood gave an overview of our newsletter, asking for comments or suggestions. Verna Steffler reported that we will be producing a coloured brochure re our Museum as soon as our new location is finalized. We will have displays at the Wingham Singing Contest in July and at the Blyth Threshers Reunion in September.

Two new CDs/tapes will be available shortly - Barn Dance Vol. 3; and one featuring previously unreleased fiddle music by the late Al Cherny.

After nominations and elections were handled at the General Meeting, and officers decided at the meeting of the new Board, our slate for 2002 is: President - Shirley Russwurm; 1st VP - Wayne Otterbein; 2nd VP - Grant Heywood; Secretary - Ron Coulthard; Treasurer - Gordon Baxter; Directors - Earl Heywood (founder), John Heaman, Bill Simmermaker, Verna Steffler, David Hedley, Doug Dietrich and David Wall. (David replaces Lynn Russwurm, who continues to be a vital contributor to our operation, but did not stand for re-election.)

Onward and upward for 2002!!

**Ron Coulthard,**  
Secretary

## THE 2002 BARN DANCE SCHEDULE

\* **JULY 27 - Mitchell Barn Dance.** Sponsored by the Mitchell Optimists & Lions Clubs. 8:00 p.m. show and dance. Arena, Mitchell, Ontario. For details call (519) 393-8245.

\* **AUGUST 3 - Mount Forest Barn Dance.** Mount Forest Old Boys / Old Girls Reunion. 8:00 p.m. show and dance. Mount Forest Community Centre Complex. For details call (519) 323-2044.

\* **SEPTEMBER 29 - Ole Tyme Fiddle Concert & Hayloft Hoe-down, (and Talent Search).** Sponsored by the Barn Dance Historical Society. 1:30 p.m. Royal Canadian Legion, Victoria St. W., Wingham. Call (519) 357-4082.

\* **OCTOBER 20 - The Tradition Continues.** Sponsored jointly between Heritage Theatre and The Barn Dance Society. Barn Dance Afternoon Show. Town Hall Heritage Theatre, Main Street, Wingham. Call (519) 357-4082.

\* **NOVEMBER 2 - Orangeville Barn Dance.** Show and Dance. 8:00 p.m. Orangeville Community Complex, Orangeville, Ontario.

\* **NOVEMBER 16 - Ole Tyme Dance.** Royal Canadian Legion, Wingham. Call (519) 357-2160.



## From the President's Desk

by Shirley Russwurm

Our summer season is now well on the way with a number of shows and Barn Dances now under our belt. The Blyth Camp-out was an unqualified success in spite of the cold rainy weather, seems the campers come prepared.

Kudos must go to Bill Simmermaker for all the hard, dedicated work he puts into this event, also to Dave Hedley for the help he gave to Bill.

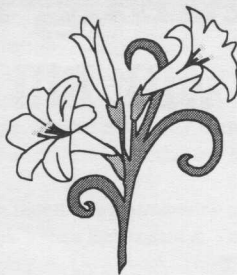
Seems we got shot down on our projected move into the police station part of the Armouries with our museum. Wingham has now decided to keep the police force and will eventually spread out into the main body of the Armouries. We are now pursuing other alternatives for the Museum once again as we do have to find a new location with more space and better access.

Although we would like to keep the museum in Wingham where it belongs, we may find it more feasible to move out of town if we have to. Time will tell although we do not have too much time to decide where we have to go.

We still need more members for our society so anybody you can bring into the fold will be welcomed, it's a very worthwhile venture and if we all work together it can become very successful

You may reach me as follows:

Shirley Russwurm,  
Box 365,  
Elmira, Ontario N3B 2Z7  
Phone: (519) 669-2386  
Fax: (519) 669-1814



**LLOYD A. WARWICK** - at the Trillium Health Centre in Mississauga, on Monday, April 22, 2002, Lloyd A. Warwick of Bluevale, Ont. passed away at the age of 78. Lloyd was among the earliest fiddlers heard over CKNX Radio and Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance.

He will be fondly remembered by his wife, the former Helen Breckenridge, his 3 sons, nine grand children and all who knew him. Please note Lloyd had a very popular band known as the "Huron County Ramblers" who travelled with him.

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**MOLLY IRENE WHITEDUCK** - originally from North Bay, recently living in Mount Forest, Ont., passed away as a result of a car accident in Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto on Tuesday, May 7, 2002. Since 1988 she frequently starred on Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance. Molly was a shining star that brightened the lives of those around her. Her kindness will always be remembered by all who knew her. A celebration of her wonderful life was held from the Hardy-Lee Funeral Home in Harriston, Tuesday, May 21, 2002.

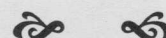
## IN MEMORIAM

**LEONARD LOVE** - Passed away at Lis-towel Memorial Hospital, on Saturday, April 27, 2002, in his 63rd year.

Len was an exceptional piano player, performing on TV shows, such as the award winning Good Time Country, the CKNX Barn Dance, and many years with the Country Versatiles band. He could play everything from Frank Mill's "Music Box Dancer", to the rockabilly honky tonk style of Jerry Lee Lewis. Len was always full of energy on and off stage. He served as President of the Barn Dance Historical Society, and was instrumental in setting procedure standards for the organization. Len was a Barn Dance pioneer inductee just last year.

Len was the loved father of Dana and his wife Kelly of Toronto, lovingly remembered by his granddaughter Olivia; dear brother of Marjorie and her husband Murray Campbell, and brother-in-law of Ruth Love, all of Lis-towel. Fondly remembered by nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents, Melvin and Vera (Loughran) Love; one brother, Jack and one sister, Margaret. Sadly missed by many musician friends who had the opportunity to play on-stage with Len.

*On behalf of the members of the Barn Dance Historical Society, may our deepest sympathy go out to the families of those listed above, who were associated with our Foundation.*



## BARN DANCE JOURNAL ADVERTISING PRICES

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## BOOKING THE BARN DANCE

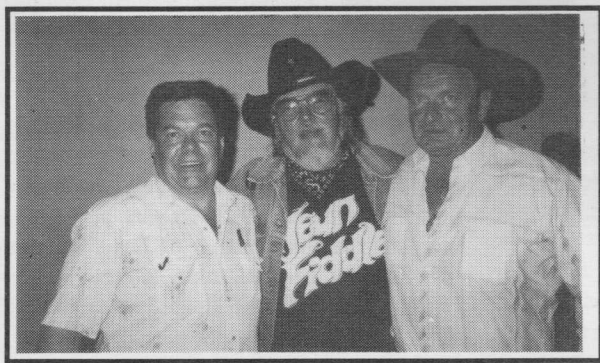
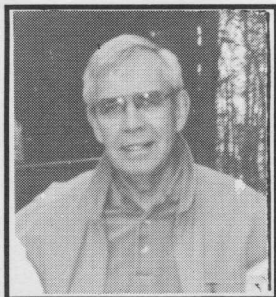
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Wingham, Ont. N0G 2W0;  
or call  
Wayne Otterbein,  
(home) (519) 565-2102,  
or (bus.) (519) 235-0559



*At the ever popular and infamous practice hideout of George Lonsbury's barn. Seated are musicians' wives and girlfriends awaiting the end of a long night of Barn Dance show rehearsal. "C'mon guys, quit jamming, it's almost 3 a.m."*

# Just Fiddling Around . . .

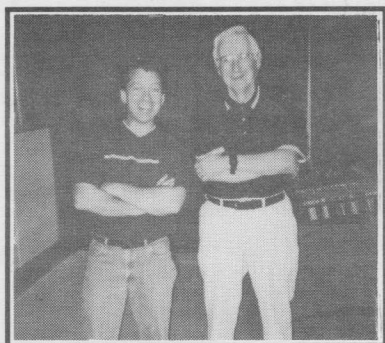
## with Bill Oja



At a recent Classic Country Reunion festival in Trenton were L to R **AL BRISCO**, former steel player with Tommy Hunter, Alberta's great **DICK DAMRON**, and band leader **BILL JOHNSON**.



**MICHAEL LeMOIRE**, promoter of this year's Douro contest proudly introduces the winners of two important categories. (L) In the 40 - 59 was the "fiddling fireman" **RANDY FOSTER**, and in the Senior Division was **BRUCE ARMITAGE** of Quyon, Quebec



Two famous Canadian fiddle judges rest between sets (L) **LOUIS SCHRYER** (8 time Shelburne champion) and musician / composer **BOB ARBUCKLE** of Richmond Hill. (At press time it was announced the Shelburne Contest CBC Radio Broadcast would feature Canada's finest oldtime fiddler **CALVIN VOLLRATH** of Alberta.)



You'll see this important twosome at this year's Chelmsford fiddle contest. M/C and entertainer **VICTOR JOHN** and Montreal piano accompanist **GUYCAINE GAGNER** are very popular on the fiddle / step contest circuit.



Seen at one of Canada's fine fiddle / step competitions, Pembroke, in the Ottawa Valley is the winner of the 12 & under category, coincidentally, the three tunes that **ERIKA WEILER** played were written by these three Ottawa Valley fiddlers, L to R **ROBBIE DAGENAIS**, **BRIAN HEBERT** and **LOUIS SCHRYER**



Another successful start to the Ontario fiddle competitions was held in Perth. Taking a break are judge **BRIAN HEBERT**, stepper **PAM HEBERT**, fiddler **MATHEW McRAE** and one of Canada's top M.C.'s **LARRY STACEY** of Stratford.



At the Blyth Campout afternoon jam session fiddler **RANDY MORRISON** and dobroist **AL WIDMEYER**, on bass, show the fans how it should be done.



## COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

\* **Buddy's Place**, 11 Ontario St., Oshawa, presents Classic Country Jam with June Eikhard every Sunday.

\* **Lake Dore Jamboree** - July 19-21. Canadian Country Legend, Johnny Burke is a special guest on July 20. Info 613-628-2324..

\* **Arnprior Festival** - at McLean Avenue Park, July 5. Info 613-623-7301.

\* **Valley Bluegrass Festival** - July 12-14. Info Box 333, Renfrew, Ont. K7V 4A4. 613-432-5063.

\* **Artist interested** in CD review for aplay, contact Shirley Sheppard, <http://www.shirleysheppard.com>. (Editor, Florida Country Music News), P.O. Box 620345,

Oviedo, Florida. 32762-0345. Artist Coordinator, The Independent Artist Country Radio Network, <http://www.tiacradio.com>. All labels will be considered, as well as quality demos, as long as the demonstration records are studio produced.

\* **Dance or listen** to great country music, open stage, at Lock's Nest Restaurant & Tavern, Kirkfield, Saturday 9 to 1 with Shirley Tennier, rhythm guitar & vocals, Lester White, bass and vocals, Roger Gill, lead guitar and vocals.

\* Don't miss the **2nd Annual Mapleleaf Country Jubilee**, July 5-7 at Sentimental Journey, 23906 Hwy. 48, Baldwin. Info 647-274-1149.

\* **Preston Springs Park** - presents country, bluegrass family jamboree, July 12-14, on the Trent Waterway, Hastings. Info 705-696-2268.

\* **Appearances by the Good Bros.** - July 26, Stewart Park Festival, Perth; Aug. 16-17, Summerfolk Festival, Owen Sound.

\* **Alhoa From Hawaii** Tribute to Elvis, July 22, Stage West, [www.stagewest.com](http://www.stagewest.com), 1-800-263-0684.

\* **Dundalk Festival** - 4th Sunday of each month at 1 pm.

\* **Randy Morrison** will be appearing at the Mitchell CKNX Barn Dance and Show, July 27. Details 519-348-8291.

\* **Country Music Jamborees** - Eganville, July 19-21, contact Wilbur Grant, 613-628-2324; 11th Annual Classic Country Music Reunion, Aug. 1-3, Centennial Park, Trenton; Aug. 11, Musician's Cornroast, Blackstock, contact Paul Wasson, 905-986-0292; Sept. 27-29, Greenbank, contact Rick Johns, 905-985-8424.

\* **Opry Orillia** - presented by Chuck Moore,

July 20, Aug. 24, Sept. 21.

\* **Step Dance & Fiddle Festival** Aug. 11-18, Sturgeon Falls. Info 1-800-263-5359.

\* **Appearances by Doreen Brown** - Mapleleaf Country Jubilee, Baldwin, July 5-7; Holland Landing, July 18; Classic Country Music Reunion, Centennial Park, Trenton, Aug. 2-4; Musician's Cornroast, Blackstock, Aug. 11; Bond Head Fiddle Club, Aug. 27; Appletree Jamboree, Belleville, Aug. 30-Sept. 2; Collingwood Legion, Sept. 9, 1 pm, open mic.

\* **Havelock Country Jamboree** - Aug. 15-18. Phone 1-800-539-3353. This year's lineup: John Michael Montgomery, Neal McCoy, Mel Tillis, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Pam Tillis, Diane Chase, David Ball, Natalie MacMaster, The Belamy Bros., Jason McCoy, Adam Gregory, Jimmy Rankin, Downchild Blues Band, Good Bros., Lucille Starr, Sean Hogan, Dock Walker & Johnny Ried. Also appearing, Myrna Lorrie, Haold McIntyre, Johnny Burke, Howard Hayes & The Country Drifters, appearing with Lucille Starr, Lost & Found, Crowbar, Proverbs (Gospel).

\* **Opry North** presents shows on July 27 at The Stampede Ranch, Guelph, and Aug. 31, at The Stampede Corral, Kitchener.

\* **Port Perry Old Time Fiddle Club** meets July 5, Aug. 22, Sept. 26. Info Barry at 905-985-7557. Address: 258 Platten Blvd., Port Perry.

\* **Clarington Fiddle Club**, new location Garnet B. Rickard Complex, Corner of Hwy. 57 & 2, erd Wed. Come dance, sing or play. Info Shirley Severn 905-987-4465.

\* **Huron Pioneer Thresher & Hobby Association** 41st Reunion, Sept. 6-8, Blyth Fairgrounds.

\* *Thanks to all the folks at the Blyth Campout who offered condolences re the recent loss of my son, Tom.*

## PHOTO CONTEST -

**Do you know who these 3 guys are??? No, they're not the Hanson Bros.**

**CLUE:** They are definitely connected to the current Barn Dance. Name 2 correctly and you could win a new Barn Dance Vol. 3 CD or tape. Name the instrument they play, plus their names and you could win a new Barn Dance Vol. 3 CD plus two matching Barn Dance hats, **OR**, two free tickets to the Barn Dance in Orangeville on November 2, 2002.

**MAIL ONLY FOLKS:** Please send your answers (including your name, phone and address) to: Grant Heywood, (editor: Barn Dance Opera Journal), 5584 Deborah Glaister Road, R. R. #2, Wellesley, Ontario N0B 2T0. DRAW DATE: Draw will take place from all entries on Sunday,

September 29, 2002, at The Old Tyme Fiddle Concert, Wingham Legion, Wingham, Ontario. Draw will be randomly picked until correct answer is received. Winner will be notified by phone or mail, and the winner will be published in the Fall edition of the Barn Dance Opera Journal.

*Employees or performers and their families of the Barn Dance or the Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum cannot participate in this contest.*

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*All purchases include GST.*

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



### HOWDY FOLKS:

How time flies. Here it is June 2002 already and we're into another Barn Dance Show season. We've come a long way since June 29, 1993. It was on that date that Martha and I invited a group of local citizens to our home in Wingham. We all helped to organize what is now known as The Barn Dance Historical Society Inc. and Entertainment Museum.

During that time, I had drafted a plan to preserve the history of Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance. We appeared at the International Plowing

Match in Walkerton back when we started in '93, and almost all the International Plowing Matches have made us welcome, year after year. This year we hope to attend the International Plowing Match being held in Glencoe, (just west of London) which will be happening this September 2002.

Next year, on June 29th, will mark the anniversary of a decade since our organization was formed. We have gained a lot of momentum, and made a lot of progress since laying the groundwork almost 10 years ago. Many thanks go out to so many of our friends and followers who have supported us along the way and have become members of The Barn Dance Historical Society. We hope to have a celebration on our anniversary date June 29, 2003, sort of like an appreciation party / performance. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

Martha and I have been very busy in June, performing for the Outdoor Donnelly play, in Blyth. This is the second year for the play and our second

year as well, singing Donnelly songs as the actors portray the story of the Donnelly saga. Special thanks to play director, Paul Thompson, and all his people for letting us be a part of this popular historical drama. Martha and I certainly enjoyed ourselves and appreciated your hospitality.

Please make a point of visiting our Barn Dance and Entertainment Museum in Wingham this summer. We're still located just off the Main Street in Wingham Armouries, just behind the Wingham Heritage Theatre. Our museum continues to grow everyday and we always look forward to meeting new folks, as well as old friends.

Remember - -

**THE SHOW MUST GO ON...**

Earl Heywood  
Founder, Hon. President,  
Advisor, Museum Curator

## COME JOIN US!!

*We need you as a member of*

# **THE BARN DANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY and ENTERTAINMENT MUSEUM**

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