



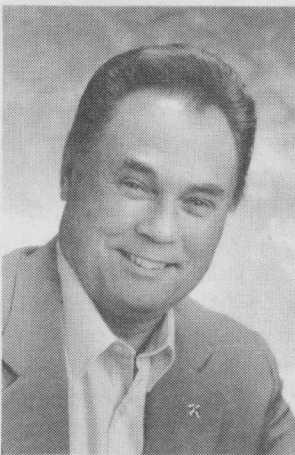
### **Ron Coulthard**

The son of an old-time fiddler, Ron became proficient on steel guitar, lead guitar, banjo, and piano. His roots are in St. Mary's, but he is also the secretary-treasurer of the Stratford Musician's Union. Ron has performed with a number of the Stratford area bands. He has been a member of the "Country Cousins", was featured for many years on "Circle 8 Ranch" and fronts his own band, "The Wildwoods".



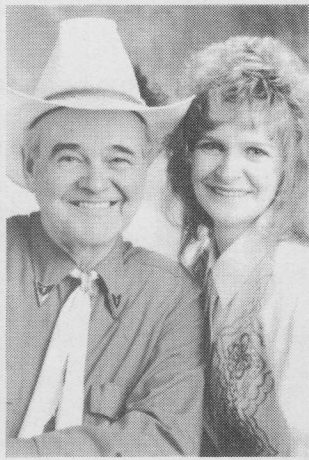
### **Maryanne Cunningham**

Born and raised in Oakville, Maryanne's love of music started at the early age of three. She began by playing the piano by ear, just like her Dad. Singing came next, and with a 15<sup>th</sup> birthday gift of a guitar, a new venue was found. Moving to Durham in 1992 introduced many musical friends, and Maryanne feels most at home in front of a live audience. Maryanne now resides in Hanover with her two children.



### **Gerry Davidson**

A native of Plattsville and son of country band leader Lee Davidson, Gerry has been winner of numerous singing contests, including the Simcoe Open and one sponsored by radio station CKFH. He has been on the Wheeling West Virginia "Jamboree" and will be performing there again. Gerry was a member of the "Country Versatiles" and has also appeared on the Barn Dance Reunion.



### **Hugh and Linda Elder**

Hugh is a wearer of many hats. He has been a school teacher, mechanic, farmer and musician. He has been a member of the "Ranch Boys" and appeared with them on "Circle 8 Ranch". Hugh recently teamed up with his daughter, Linda, and the duo has gained popularity with a wide range of audiences, including concert, dance and lounge patrons.



### **John and Geneva Herman**

This man and wife team is from Exeter, Ontario. John is a piano, guitar and fiddle player. His size and comedy routines have been a fan favorite for years. Dynamite in a small package, John and Geneva Herman have played with the Roger Quick Band. Don't miss them this season.



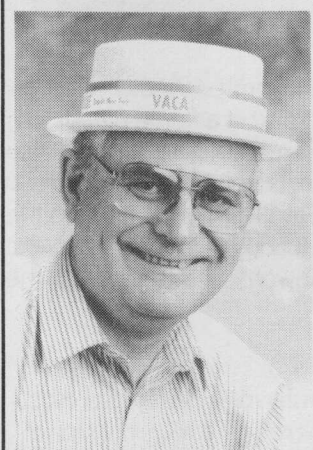
### **Earl and Martha Heywood**

Earl was a Barn Dance performer from the early 1940's until the original show disbanded. Earl starred on radio and TV shows and in countless concerts and other performances. He was inducted into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame and has recorded with Dominion, RCA and Rodeo. In addition to his singing and guitar talents, Earl is also a songwriter of note. He and his wife Martha are a very popular entertainment duo and continue to perform in the area.



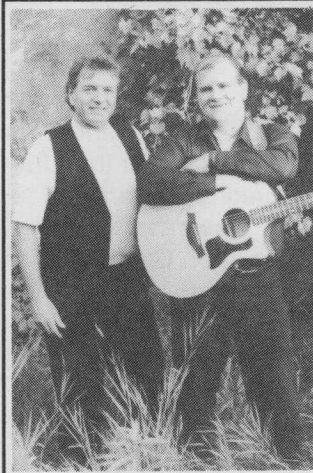
### **Grant Heywood**

When Grant turned seven, his father Earl arranged recording sessions at the RCA Victor Recording Studios in Toronto. They recorded a family album with mother Martha and sister Patsy Anne. They made Canadian history by being the first family to make a record. Grant plays drums, guitar and mandolin and was in several rock and country bands including the Desert Dolphins. Three generations of the Heywood's will be on stage this year at the Barn Dance, including Grant's daughters.



### **Len Love**

A devotee of the piano styles of Reg Bitton and Cora Robertson, Listowel native Len Love first appeared on the Barn Dance at age 15. With Wayne Riehl he later organized the "Country Versatiles" and is still performing with that group. Len considers his career highlight to be his appearances on CKNX-TV's "Good Tyme Country" from its first to its final broadcast. The program twice won the prestigious Canpro Award as best show of its size in Canada.



### **McLachlan Richards**

Dennis McLachlan's hometown is the railroad town of Palmerston, while Robert Richards grew up in Cambridge. Combining AC, Pop and Country, with warm healing harmonies and strong confident lead vocals, people have compared them to the Eagles, Blue Rodeo and Burton Cummings. They have been involved with several bands including Steady Eddy, Hired Hand, Desert Dolphins, Full Steam Ahead, and Tobruk.



### **Larry Mercey**

At 16 years of age, Larry joined the Barn Dance. Elvis Presley was "King" and Larry sang Elvis' songs, some say better than he. When the Everley Brothers shot to fame, younger brother Ray teamed up with Larry and the Mercey's proved to be a match for the Everleys too. The Mercey Brothers added to their success when youngest sibling Lloyd joined in. After Ray and then Lloyd retired, Larry continued to perform for a while with the "Larry Mercey Band", but he now limits his performances.



### **Randy Morrison**

Randy Morrison is from Locknow. He now resides in Toronto and is a fiddle player that performs country and bluegrass music. He has backed up the Townsends and has two albums out: The Red Barn and Listen to the Mocking Bird. Randy's unique musical talents will be showcased this year on the Barn Dance.



### **Northern City Limits**

Spawned from weekly jams in the early 1990s, the southern Ontario band was named Most Promising Group at the 1997 Central Canadian Bluegrass awards. "The best, most laid-back bluegrass band I've heard in some time." Jurgen Gothe, host of CBC Radio's Disc Drive. Bill Carson: On bass and vocals, from Hanover; Paul Hurdle: On banjo and baritone vocals, from London; Tom Nunn: On guitar and vocals, from Kitchener; Norm Tellier: On mandolin and vocals, from Cambridge.



### **Walter Ostanek**

St. Catharines, Ontario's Walter Ostanek is considered King Of The Polka. Over a 40 year period Ostanek has made 50 recordings and been nominated for 10 Grammys -- winning three so far. Ostanek's played with Mel Tillis, Roy Clark, Ronnie Milsap, the Oak Ridge Boys and Slim Whitman. Ostanek's work is considered Slovenian Cleveland-style polka and waltz. He is the only Canadian in both the Cleveland and Chicago polka halls of fame and has been given the Order of Canada.



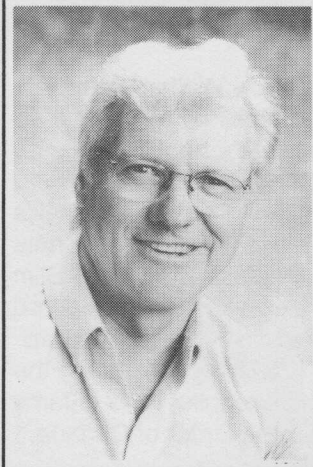
### **Linda Reid**

Linda Reid is a fantastic singer from Wellandport, Ontario and is definitely country born and bred. Her sparkling smile and country accent bring a charming glow and warmth to the stage. She has recorded and entertained in Nashville. Linda has released a CD with two singles out so far. "Only One Cook" and "I Am" have been released to country radio. "I Am" has been produced on video for release on CMT television.



### **Wayne Riehl**

Wayne hails from Stratford and has been performing in public since he was 13. He was a member of "Royce Riehl's Country Cousins", a group which won Top Country Band honors at the Cookstown Competition three years in a row. With Len Love, Wayne formed "Country Versatiles" and still performs with that group. Wayne was also a regular on TV's "Good Tyme Country" and has made many appearances on the Barn Dance and other programs.



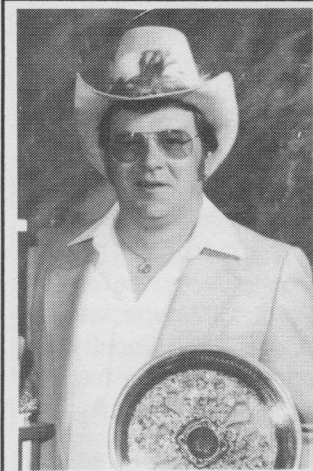
### **Bruce Robertson**

After developing his fine guitar playing and vocal talents, Bruce joined his Uncle Don Robertson's "Ranch Boys". He became a popular performer with the group and also appeared on "Circle 8 Ranch" for eight years. He performed in 1996 once again as a feature and continues as a rhythm guitar player and singer.



### **Katie Roth**

Still only a teenager, Katie's career accomplishments already rival those of performers many years her senior. Katie placed first in 1995 at the Canadian Open Singing Contest in Simcoe and at the CNE in Toronto. She also placed fourth at the three competitions in Stratford and placed second once. Katie credits some of her success to lots and lots of practice singing at weddings, anniversaries, funerals, parties, sports events, picnics and in church.



### **Randy Satchell**

Randy has always been singing and in 1981 and 1982 he won the Canadian Open Country Singing Contest in Simcoe. He has been a judge there for 15 years and chairman of the judges for the past 12. He has played in several bands, including "The Town and Country Gentlemen", "Tyme", and "The Country Versatiles", and guested on CKNX-TV's "Circle 8 Ranch" and with the Barn Dance. He has also appeared on stage in Wheeling West Virginia.



### **Bill Simmermaker**

Bill originally came from Fordwich, in Howick Township, where he played in various local country bands, starting at age 15. He moved to Kitchener 15 years ago where again he started pursuing his musical interests. During this time his bands have entertained at many dances, concerts, finished runner up in a radio competition and have done some recording. Bill has never strayed from his country roots and performs with the latest edition of the Barn Dance.



### **Sharon Strong**

Known as the Sweetheart of the Barn Dance, Sharon was one of the most popular entertainers on the show. A regular on "Circle 8 Ranch", she also appeared on shows on CTV Toronto and CHCH Hamilton. She also recorded an album for ARC Records. Following an extended hiatus, while she raised her three daughters, Sharon is now performing again.



### **Sunrise**

Sunrise is a four piece country band who originally began entertaining in 1983. The members of Sunrise are Brian Schlotzhauer on fiddle, lead guitar and vocals, Ken Meadows, drums and vocals, and Doug Dietrich, steel guitar and vocals. These three members have been working together since 1985. Al Alderson, on bass and vocals, joined the group in 1992. Sunrise will be our special guests at the Tara Barn Dance.



### **Lindsay Taylor**

Lindsay Taylor is country music born and bred. With a sparkling smile, she brings a warm charming glow to the stage. She writes her own music with a high energy style and personality all her own. She has recorded and entertained in Nashville, most notably at the famous Ryman Auditorium, with Willie Nelson, Vince Gill and George Strait. Lindsay has been on the Nashville Network with Del Reeves, Jack Green and Chase Webster. She has also appeared on CBC and CITY TV.



### **The Music Makin' Moms**

These five talented ladies hail from the Allenford/Tara area and have been making music since long before they became moms. With eight albums to their credit the Moms' are just as comfortable playing an old country classic or a favorite gospel tune. The Music Makin' Moms are: Bonnie Hemstock, 1<sup>st</sup> Violin, Louise Stout, 2<sup>nd</sup> violin, Lynda Kingwell, vocals, Bernice Gowan, mandolin and Marilyn McComb on piano and accordion.



### **Triple Dynamite, Mathew, Jaimie and Katy**

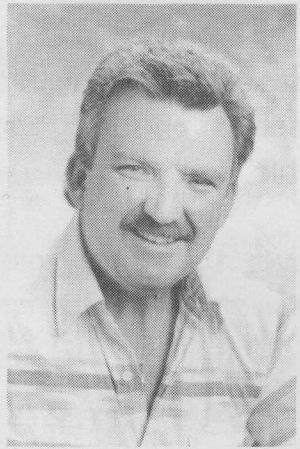
Triple Dynamite features the championship fiddling and dancing of sixteen year old Mathew Johnson from Stratford, along with more fancy footwork by Jaimie and Katy McCormack from Durham. All three are part of Judy Waymouth's Canadian Heritage tour group, which has performed in such places as Branson, Missouri, and overseas in Austria. This trio is a great example of young talent on the way up!





### **Janet Turner**

Janet Turner is a young lady in her teenage years who is destined to do great things in the music business. Janet won the Canadian Open Country Singing Contest in Simcoe in 1998. She has appeared on the Barn Dance many times and is sure to be one of your favourites.



### **Al Widmeyer**

Now a Kitchener resident, Al's taste for country music was developed in his hometown of Hanover. He is a skilled player of six instruments, guitar, steel guitar, dobro, bass, banjo and fiddle. Al has a hit record "Honky Tonk Saturday Night". He has played extensively with the "Dixie Flyers", Joe Firth and Carl Kees. Al has also performed as an opening act with George Jones, Conway Twitty, Johnny Cash and the "Nashville Stars".

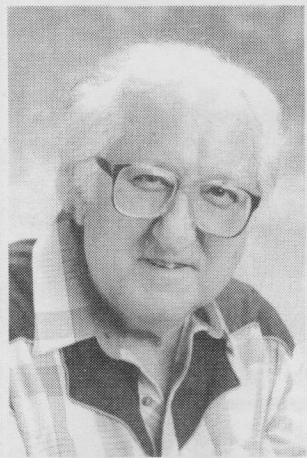


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### **Bill Mankiss**

Born in Manitoba, Bill joined the Barn Dance as an accordionist. He later played with Mel Lavigne's "Blue Water Boys" with King Ganam on CFTO-TV and with Toronto area bands. Bill recorded a polka album for ARC Records and provided backup for a number of artists including Ward Allen and Al Cherney.

Deceased March 18 1998.



### **Graham and Eleanor Townsend**

This Duo was North America's only husband and wife championship fiddle team. Graham was a five times undefeated North American fiddle champion and Eleanor was the only woman to have won the Shelburne open championship. Graham has played for the Royal Family, toured with top country acts, recorded over 40 albums and appeared on radio and TV. Eleanor, has won many contests which significantly raised the profile of women fiddlers. Both Deceased 1999.

# Special Memories