

Music Notes for January 2023

Hello everyone,

Happy New Year!! I trust you all had a Merry Christmas and Santa was good to you.

It seems 2022 went by pretty fast, but it always does as we tend to look ahead these days instead of living in the present. It was a year filled with trepidation about what was to come as far as pandemics and the economy were concerned but we seem to have come out of it in not too bad a shape overall.

We are now heading into 2023 and I can only hope it will be a better year for all of us musically as well as healthy and prosperous. Having said that I will share that I was diagnosed with colo-rectal cancer in October and I will be starting chemo and radiation treatments for 5 weeks, then 8 weeks of no treatment, followed by surgery and recovery time so 2023 will be a real test for me. I plan on getting back to music as soon as I can so I will do exactly as the good doctors say! I don't expect to need to take a break from writing this column, but if it becomes necessary I'll let you all know.

Generally, things are pretty quiet after New Year's Eve and although I am writing this on December 30th and the New Year has not technically started yet, I can tell you that due to the time of year and the weather etc. it is pretty quiet on the music scene for January.

I will start off by saying that while bands and combos are busy there are not as many festivals and concerts going on but that doesn't mean everyone is hibernating either. I received a note from Hall member Flo Durelle and she passed on this information:

I was contacted by CJSE radio station yesterday wondering if I could give them a quick interview and to record a short 2023 greeting for their listening audience to air on New Year's Day. Of course I agreed as they have always supported my music over the years and I prepared a short spiel. Come to find out, it was a ruse to get me on air to inform me that my French song "Je M'ennuie à Mourir" was chosen song of the year for 2022. To say I was dumbfounded would be an understatement. Never did I think that song would be song of the year. I am not easily surprised as I have my "spidey senses" on all the time but they sure got me good on this one. I didn't expect it at all.

I am not supposed to know this until New Year's Day. But man, they sure got me good. I don't even remember what I said following her announcement. Lol

Thanks and all the best to you and yours in the coming New Year

Sincerely,
Flo Durelle

Moving on from Flo, I will share what has been and will be going on for our President Ivan Hicks and his better half Vivian. They share the following news:

Prudie and Bill Harmer receiving one of the Hall of Fame's medallions in thanks for all of their hard work over the last 30 years in support of the Hall of Fame. Bill was a big help in the Hall of Fame obtaining its previous home at the Old Victoria Hospital in Fredericton. Prudie has worked in the office of the Hall of Fame for decades and done countless hours of work each Gala year. They have been two of our Hall of Fame's finest promoters. Thank you Bill and Prudie.



The Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Championship will be held on August 25th and 26th 2023 in Truro Nova Scotia and promises to be one of the summers premier events for further information here is the website link: cgmfcnovascotia2023.com below is the 2023 logo:



Vivian and I hope that everyone enjoyed a Blessed Christmas shared with family and friends and that 2023 will bring good times and much health and happiness.

December was a fairly busy musical month for us which included bus tours to our home, a very successful Salisbury Fiddle Doo, senior home musical presentations, a most enjoyable Sussex Valley Jamboree Christmas Show and even played for a funeral and a 60th wedding anniversary.

A New Brunswick Country Music Hall of Fame meeting was held in December to discuss two main events – A Hall of Fame Grand Opening at the Fredericton Inn (where our frames are on display) and this year's 40th Anniversary Gala event. Stay tuned for more information on the Grand Opening which is scheduled for April 14,15,16 – an event you will want to attend and will enjoy.

The Inductee Selection Committee and Board of Directors are scheduled to meet on January 15 at the Fredericton Inn to select and approve the new Inductees for this year's 40th Anniversary Gala to be held at the Fredericton Inn, October 14, 2023. Ticket information and other details will be available soon. This promises to be a memorable Gala with weeklong musical activities, a banquet, induction ceremonies, concert featuring Hall of Fame members, late night jam and church service.

In November, a fiddle jam was held in St Antoine with a good turnout of fiddlers and audience. On Monday January 30, 2023 another fiddling evening will be held at the Golden Age Club in St Antoine starting at 7 pm. A big thank you goes out to Norm Breau for organizing this event.

In December the Salisbury Fiddle Doo held at the Lions Hall, Peter St, was very successful. Mark your calendar for February 11, 2023 for another Doo, same place with starting time 1:30pm. All fiddlers and accompanists are welcome as well as all those who want to dance or just sit and enjoy the music.

Looking ahead, I will mention that the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Championships will be held on August 25 and 26, 2023 in Truro, NB. It is a showcase of first class fiddling from across Canada. I am privileged to have been invited to be emcee for this event. Why not plan a weekend getaway and take in the show? See you there!
cgmfcnovascotia2023.com

Also from Ivan:

Season's Greetings to Hall of Fame Members, here we are just a few days before Christmas. We hope you all will have a wonderful time during the holiday season. The next thing we'll know, we'll be ringing in the New Year!

What a year it has been for the Hall of Fame! We welcomed new Executive Director, Linda Gaston into the organization. She has been working hard on our succession plan that will see the Hall of Fame continue on for many years, forging ahead better than ever. Many members have stepped up to serve on various committees that further contribute to the health of the organization. It is wonderful to see so much happening.

Our new home inside the Fredericton Inn continues to evolve and is something that our founder Aubrey Hanson would truly be proud of. The New Year will see a grand opening celebration that we invite you to attend. 2023 will be a big year for the NB Country Music Hall of Fame as it will be the 40th anniversary with a special Gala celebration planned for October 14, 2023 at the Fredericton Inn. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year and wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas, a happy and healthy New Year and country music galore!

Sincerely,
Ivan Hicks ONB
President NBCMHF

At our last board meeting in November we were given the opportunity to see some samples of Carol Taylor's pottery art in the form of Hall of Fame mugs and beakers the pictures below are of the samples and this could possibly be a form of fund raising for the Hall. Carol is 1st Vice-President Gerry Taylor's wife and is a very talented New Brunswick artist! See for yourself!



I think they would make a very nice commemorative mug for our 40th Gala celebrations don't you? Many thanks Carol for reaching out to us with your talents.

I would like to take the time to tell you about the “New Brunswick Country Music” podcast hosted by Hall members Brent Buchanan and Reg Gallant. If you haven’t tuned in yet we would really appreciate your support and help in making the podcast known. The podcast features many Hall of Fame members as well as local artists making a difference in country music in New Brunswick.

The podcast is an informal and relaxed chat with folks who are making country music their life journey in the arts, and the conversations are raw and unrehearsed. I am sure you will enjoy listening whether at home or in your car on a trip. You can access the podcast through the Hall of Fame website or on the Pure Country radio site as well as on youtube, facebook and other social media platforms. We generally tape 2 podcasts per month and they all have interesting titles such as the one we did with Rik Reese called “Reeses Pieces” and with up and coming young country star Riley Taylor called “Living the Life of Riley” hehe. Give us a listen and tell your friends, I am sure they will enjoy it too!

We will soon be gathering in January to select the new inductees for the 40th Gala and induction ceremonies to be held in Fredericton on October 14th 2023 at the Fredericton Motor Inn, which is also the new home of the Hall of Fame!

This will be an exciting year of growth and direction for the Hall as we move forward with a succession plan and work hard to keep the hall moving onward and upward in the following years. I can tell you there will be many firsts in 2023 and we are excited for the future.

If you have any questions or concerns please inform one of the Board members and we will address them. You are all valued members of the Hall of Fame and your input and help is needed to keep things moving forward. There will be committees and projects to volunteer for, and if you have any special skills that you feel may be useful to the Hall please let us know! I could go on and on but by now you know how I feel about the Hall of Fame, it is an honour and a privilege that I do not take for granted nor do I take it as my due. Those who have come before us and those who will come after us will keep the flame burning with their heart and soul and passion for our music.

I will close by saying that the future is created by vision and hope, that what we work hard to achieve will be, what we desire to be remembered for will come to pass, and what we leave behind us will be better than we imagined. Cherish the past; live in the present; dream for the future.

Yours in Music,
Reg Gallant
NBCMHF (2009)



