

Music Notes for March 2023

Hello everyone,

March is coming in like a lion in some parts of the province and not so much in other parts but I will call it as a lion for us and hopefully it will go out like a lamb. I apologize for the column being late but February was a short month and with running back and forth to the hospital I lost track of time.

I finished my chemotherapy and radiation on Monday February 27, and while it left me quite tired and sore I have 6-8 weeks to rest and recover a bit before surgery. In that time I hope to play a few gigs and do a small bit of travelling to Ontario to visit my son and his family for a week.

One thing I was able to do in my down time was to watch the activities of other musicians and get a feel for how things are going in country music and music in general. While there are not as many bars and clubs hiring, the ones that are booking musicians and bands are much appreciated.

There are lots of venues providing live music and there are jam sessions and open mic sessions popping up everywhere. So I think things are definitely on the upswing. I have already booked a couple of late summer venues and I haven't even been trying hard to book anything so it bodes well for a resurgence in live performances!

Be sure to mark April 15th in your calendars and try to attend if possible our New Brunswick Country Music Hall Of Fame Grand Opening Ceremony at the Fredericton Motor Inn at 2:00 p.m.

This is a very important step in the future of the Hall Of Fame as we move forward from our old home into a bright and modern space. A lot of work and effort went into securing our new home and thanks to the efforts spearheaded by member Dwane Drost and his team we now have a modern, well-put together venue to display our frames. The new venue also features two video screens with scrolling pictures and music videos of Hall members. You have to see it!

We also acknowledge and are thankful for the contributions by the Waite family owners of the Fredericton Motor Inn and proud supporters of the Hall of Fame.

If you can make it we would love to see you there, it is your Hall of Fame!

Here is the official invitation:



Invitation

**The New Brunswick Country Music Hall of Fame
cordially invites you to attend the Grand Opening of our new home.**

April 15, 2023 - 2:00pm
Fredericton Inn - 1315 Regent St., Fredericton, NB

**Join us for the ribbon cutting, tour of our new home, finger foods and
music featuring our Hall of Fame members**



For more info contact:
Dwane Drost: 506-476-0079 or Brent Buchanan: 506-999-4633

www.nbcmhf.com



Our president and fiddler extraordinaire Ivan Hicks and wife Vivian are taking a much-deserved break in Florida and can you guess what they are doing?



Yes sir folks even when travelling they are never far from the music!! I think Vivian was taking the picture, as she is not in the frame. I would have loved to sit in on that jam for sure!

Isn't music wonderful? It is something that you can literally do anywhere. Sing in the shower or in the car? You betcha! You can play an instrument nearly anywhere too! On the porch, in the bedroom, living room, attic ANYWHERE!!! You just have to let it move you!!

I thought I would throw in this picture from a few years back as a tribute to my good friend and hall of famer Wayne Hachey who passed a few years ago. Wayne was an excellent bass player and harmony singer and we played a lot of music together. In the picture is Wayne on bass, myself on electric guitar, my brother and Hall member C.J. Gallant on acoustic guitar, and Terry Morton on drums:



We have lost members through the years and while it diminishes the fabric of the past they were the foundation of the future. How many younger folks picked up a bass guitar because of Wayne? Indeed, how many younger folks have been inspired by all our Hall of Fame members!

I had a really good guitar player/singer tell me that I was the reason he started playing guitar. Friends it doesn't get any better than that. That is how we seed the future and pass the torch on.

Tickets are now on sale for the 40th Anniversary Gala in October and they are going quite fast so don't miss out get yours today! I got mine in the mail yesterday and you can have yours sent to you too! Payment can be made by check or by e-transfer contact information is available on the Hall of Fame website for Brent Buchanan, Dwayne Drost, or Sandra Reed.

I have not received any correspondence from anyone for March so I assume it has been quiet for most of you but if you have anything you would like mentioned in the column please forward it to me and I will see it put in. I need to receive the info at least one week before the end of the month so it can make it in the next month's column. Your input is important as this column is intended for all of you not just the few who are contributing.

I am going to take a few lines to mention New Brunswickers who are making a splash nationally and internationally, and quite a few of them aren't Hall members yet:

- Riley Taylor, singer-songwriter
 - Winner of the Rising Star Award
- Mike Bourque, steel player
 - Was with Gene Watson for a spell
- Aaron Currie, guitarist
 - Played with Josh Turner
 - Currently with Wynonna Judd
- Chris Melanson, singer-songwriter
 - Award winner and recording artist
- Brian Mallery, singer-songwriter
 - Toured Canada and overseas
 - Sang with Georgette Jones and Daryll Singletary
- Rik Reese, singer-songwriter
 - Tours Canada and has played every venue there is to play in N.B.!
 - Record holder for playing the most times at Cavendish Beach Music Festival
- Jessica McLaughlin, singer-songwriter
 - In demand at concerts and venues in N.B. and Ontario
- Jason Barry, guitarist and record producer touring all over Canada and U.S.
- Hall member Brenda Best, singer-songwriter is as busy as ever in Nashville
- Hall member Phil O'Donnell, song-writer and producer for some of Nashville's biggest stars

I could go on and on! And I know there are names I haven't mentioned but I think you see the pattern here. New Brunswickers are making their mark on the musical landscape of the world and I am proud to say I am a New Brunswicker and part of that musical community!

I am going to mention once again our New Brunswick Country Music Podcast hosted by Brent Buchanan and myself. We do a couple of podcasts a month and we talk about all things country music in New Brunswick as well as chat with artists and Hall members about their experiences on the road and what the music means to them.

We recently interviewed two new inductees Wand Grant and Sam Johnston, and you can hear the interviews at New Brunswick Country Music podcast or follow the links from the Pure Country radio station in Fredericton or on the Hall of Fame website. We appreciate you listening to the podcast as it helps to build our followers up.

I am going to close for now by saying, keep it country, support your Hall and fellow members anyway you can and don't forget the Grand Opening on April 15th!! Hope to see you all there!

Reg Gallant
NBCMHF (2009)

