

Some comments from Columnists and Radio Announcers:

Stan Carew, CBC – ‘Adam Olmstead is the best new musical talent to come out of New Brunswick in decades. Adam will be in the New Brunswick Hall of Fame some day’,
Glen Meisner, CBC – ‘There are a lot of famous Nashville musicians playing on the album and the question is whether this unknown Adam Olmstead can hold his own with such talent’. He concluded, Adam had done so in fine fashion – a great tribute to a new artist.

St Croix Courier – Rob Patry wrote after seeing Adam play – a musician so steeped in historical references of a variety of genres, he could only be described as “the real thing”.

Edgar Barry – was born in St. Stephen in 1929 and started playing Guitar at age 11. It was a Lone Ranger Guitar, which he borrowed from his brother without his knowledge. He only knew 2 cords – C and F. He taught himself by reading every article he could find and listened to Wilf Carter until he learned the words and how to play them. He wanted to learn how to yodel, however, his father said ‘if you are going to keep up that racket, he needed to build a cabin in the woods so he could practice – and so he did and learned how to yodel. His first appearance at the age of 12 was in an old barn and the crowd encouraged him to learn the Alphabet Song by Hank Snow. Edgar has played with Ned Landry and was invited by Aubrey Hansen to play for him and was so impressed he recorded him at the studio and played on the radio. He has also been on the Curly O’Brien radio show out of Bangor, Maine. He also appeared at the opening of Mcgaw Ski Hill, Loon Bay Lodge, the Playhouse in Fredericton and the Manor in McAdam. He has 6 CD’s.

CONDOLENCES - Members of the Hall of Fame send condolences to the families of **Daniel Fontaine (1994)** of **Charlo**, **Billy Brideau** and **Bill Mullin of Miramichi**, all of whom passed away in January, 2017 to be forever remembered.

NEWS, VIEWS and THANK YOU’S

- **CONGRATULATIONS and HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to two of our Hall of Fame Members, **Matilda Murdoch** (97 in January) and **Ned Landry** (96 in February), who combined, have fiddled well over 160 years and have been great ambassadors for our province.
- **A big thank you** is sent out to all Hall of Famers who performed at the Saint John Exhibition Concert on September 2nd, 2016. This show was most successful with special credits to band leader, **Gary Morris** and to **Gerry Taylor** who helped to organize this event. MC for the evening was **Bob Henry**. Many positive comments were heard from the audience. Also, a tip of the hat to **Rogers TV** for all their support
- Another successful Gala was held on October 15, 2016 in Florenceville/Bristol at North Carleton High School with a late night jam at the Florenceville Inn. Hall of Fame member, **Bonnie Rairdon** along with husband, **Dale MacElwain**, were the hosts for of this event. A big thank you extended to this couple, their committee and to all others who made this another great Gala. Plan to attend this year’s Gala in St. Stephen, the first time in this Community.

NOMINATIONS

If you would like to nominate someone for the Hall of Fame, remember nominations deadline for **2018** is **November 30th, 2017**. Nomination forms are available on the website: www.nbcmhf.com or head office 506 386-2996 at 1631 Hwy 112, Upper Coverdale, NB E1J 1X9 or email ivan@ivanhicks.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE – www.nbcmhf.com and on
Face Book – New Brunswick Country Music Hall of Fame

Newsletter Committee
Ivan & Vivian Hicks Bill & Prudie Harmer

Vol 22.1

March 2017

GALA EVENT 2017 OCTOBER 14 St. Stephen High School

Our Founder’s Purpose and Personal Vision of the



- * **The sole purpose of recording, for history’s sake, a photo and printed display of any artist from New Brunswick who has made a significant contribution to country music**
- * **To preserve and promote Old Time Country Music**
- * **To induct country music artists into the Hall of Fame at a yearly banquet**

1631 Rte 112

Upper Coverdale, NB E1J 1X9

ph/fax: 506.386.2996 email: ivan@ivanhicks.com

View Hall of Fame Frames at
Victoria Medical Centre, 65 Brunswick St., Fredericton, NB
Website: www.nbcmhf.com

GALA EVENT 2017**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14th, St. Stephen High School, 282 King Street**

The organizing committee for the 2017 Gala Event is looking forward to welcoming you to **St. Stephen** for the Gala Event which includes; Reception, Banquet and Induction Ceremony, with festivities *beginning at 4:00 pm*; Concert at the **St. Stephen High School Theatre**

This year's Official Host is Hall of Fame Member, **Carson Leighton** along with St. Stephen Committee chaired by **Gary Sturgeon**. We wish to congratulate the new inductees and make this evening a welcoming celebration.

Banquet & Concert: \$55. Concert only: \$20 advance; \$25 at the door

**Please check with Sandra Reed – 506 472-0355 for ticket availability
email: sanreed@nbnet.nb.ca**

Accommodations in the St. Stephen area – check our website – www.nbcmhf.com

Further info contact Ivan – 386-2996; ivan@ivanhicks.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017 INDUCTEES

**Randy Russell
Claudette Norman**

**William (Bill) Casey
Adam Olmstead**

Edgar Barry

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM MUSIC DIRECTOR – GARY MORRIS

All Hall of Famers are invited to perform at the Gala Concert. We are looking for one song/tune from past inductees and 2 songs/tunes from the new Inductees

If you have not already done so, please send name of song(s)/tune(s), key and copy of selection (charts would be great) to:

Gary Morris, 590 Main St, Sussex, NB E4E 7H8; phone - 506 433-5556; fax - 506 433-5599; email – gary@morrismusicltd.com

Randy Russell – Randy was inspired, at an early age, by the sounds of country music in his home. His Dad, Rick, was already involved performing country music and sometimes included all the family performing at Lily Lake, Saint John. His favourite artist was Merle Haggard and he performed one of his songs at his first gig in Rothesay. At the age of 15, Randy joined his first band, Vintage Wine. His second band, Morning Sun, recorded albums and toured New Brunswick. Randy performed vocals and bass guitar. He then joined The Johnny Burke & East

Wind band and toured across Canada for 8 years and won the 'Best Instrumental Artist of the Year' Award. Randy was thrilled to accompany Mel Tillis in Fredericton and performed on Smiley Bates CD, recorded state side. He was a guest on the Rhonda Vincent Show. He also played on stage at Massey Hall and was well received at the Horseshoe Tavern in Toronto. A few of the stars for which he played back up bass and vocals were: Chris Crinkie, Orval Prophet, Don Gibson, Johnny Russell, Gerry Reid, Ronnie Robbins, Justin Tubb, Myrna Lorrie, Dan Seals, David Frizzell, Carol Baker and Johnny Paycheck. He had the privilege of opening shows for George Jones, Dave Dudley, Mel Tillis, Wilf Carter, Rickey Skaggs, Dutch Mason, Ritchie Oakley of the Oakley Bros, Matt Minglewood, Sylvia Tyson, Harold Macintyre and Johnny Lee. Randy has performed for more than 45 years and has had a heart and mind full of country music eager to perform wherever he goes.

Bill Casey - Bill was born in Rogersville, in 1926. When he was 2, his family moved to Rolling Dam and he has lived in Charlotte County ever since. His Mother taught him to play the Accordion when he was 8. He also plays the Harmonica and Jews Harp. Bill also played a lot in the lumber camps where his father was employed, at local dance halls and square dances and various other venues. Bill has played at many benefits, socials and Jamborees. Bill played with Don Messer and the Stacys Jamboree. Even now, in his nineties, he attends 2 or 3 jams a week plus other interests. His son says he can't say 'no' and has played at weddings including his daughter's. He has done some tutoring on the Accordion and plays a lot with his family group, the Casey Family Tree, for which they have a CD called 'Branching Out'. Bill is a well loved musician who is well received at any event. His energy and vitality are contagious.

Claudette Norman - Singer, Songwriter and all-round Musician was born in Chatham in 1958. She began singing at the age of 12 - 3 years after her family moved to Blacks Harbour. In her teens, she won various talent shows and pageants. Claudette's musical career really took off after her family had grown. She played at many benefits and fundraisers throughout Southeastern NB. Claudette received the 'Citizen of the Year' Award for which she wrote and performed 'I Love This Town' for the Town of St. George Centennial Anniversary. She has been lead singer for several groups; Rev 4, Passin' Thru, Claudette & The Players and WeBe3. She has performed live on CBC radio at Harbour Lights Campaign fundraising breakfast. In 2015, she was a participant of the NB All Star 'Originals' Country Showcase. She appeared at the Playhouse in Fredericton, one of six artists and shared the evening with Joan Kennedy, Tristan Horncastle and Steve Waylon which are being aired on Rogers TV in 2016 and 2017. She has performed in concerts, too numerous to mention, throughout Southern NB. She has produced 6 CD's – Saturday Nite at the Stella, Country Grass, Love This Town, Country Praise, Rock Solid Country and A Homemade Christmas (co-produced). Claudette is well recognized for her fine musical performances, but is also known as an avid community supporter, tirelessly volunteering her time to organizing many concerts and shows in Charlotte County, as well as helping others.

Adam Olmstead - Adam's musical roots include his grand uncle Donald McLeod of St Stephen, who is the author of the music and lyrics of 'The Land of New Brunswick', the official song of the Province. His Mother's family were pickers and players and the genes have clearly been passed on to Adam. Many of Adam's songs are based on life lived in Charlotte County. The Country/Gospel song, The Lord Loves a Wino, has found favour on Toronto radio, has been recorded by different bands, and some music veterans still think it may have been his breakthrough song.