

November 2023

Issue 10

Somebody pinch me, I think I'm still dreaming! What a stellar 40th anniversary Gala and Induction ceremony and celebration!

Hello everyone,

It is still hard to believe that just a few short weeks ago we gathered in Fredericton at the new home of the Hall of Fame (the Fredericton Inn) to celebrate five new inductees and our 40th anniversary!

So many people were involved in the success of the Gala from our gala committee: Brent Buchanan, Dwane Drost, Mavis O'Donnell and their volunteers to Jeff Melanson at Jem Audio Visual, Gary and Tammy Morris, Wade Butland (Soundman), Linda Gaston (concert, preparations and rehearsals), and Ivan and Vivian Hicks for their fantastic leadership.

The Gala band was awesome and included Gary and Tammy Morris, Dave McNeill, Tim Wallace, Ivan and Vivian Hicks, Ron Vautour, Allison Inch, John Jeffries, and 30 some odd Hall members as performers! Wow... just wow is all I can say. Well, no that isn't all actually, because there was music lined up the whole week prior to the Gala thanks to the efforts of Dwane Drost and Brent Buchanan and of course Mavis O'Donnell for lining up the venues and acts.

The Friday night open Jam at Maybee's Brewery was a huge success, many thanks to the efforts of Steve Lyons for hosting this as well as the after Gala jam!

Our sincere thanks also goes out to our sponsors and the Fredericton Inn for supporting our Hall Of Fame.

The Hall of Fame continues to grow and evolve and the future looks bright.

We were pleased to have Premier Blaine Higgs at our celebration and being supportive by staying for the concert and jam afterwards where he sang 'Kiss an Angel Good Morning' by Charlie Pride and he did a great job.

Our congratulations to our five inductees this year, Tim Wallace, Wanda Grant, Tom Hoyt, Joyce Boone and Sam Johnston, congrats and welcome to the Hall of Fame!

I'm only able to share a few photos in the column due to file size restrictions but please also have a look on Facebook, as there are so many great photos taken by various members at the festivities. I will share a few that Cheryl Albert (thank you as well for your dedication and hard work) took and Ivan sent along.





Wanda Grant

David Wade

Sam Johnston



Joyce Boone

Big John Little

Frank Hartt



Gary Morris, Allison Inch, Ivan Hicks

This is just a tiny hint at the photos out there of the Gala! I'll be looking into compiling more photos and how best to share them so for now I'll say more to come and I'll keep everyone posted in the column!

Sadly just before the Hall of Fame Gala week we lost another Hall member Gordie Cole.



Gordon Francis Cole 1932 – 2023

The passing of Gordon Francis Cole of Fredericton, NB, husband of the late Alice Marie (Boone) Cole, occurred on October 6, 2023 at York Care Centre. Born on May 4, 1932 in Fredericton, NB, he was the son of the late Winnifred (Thomas) and Charles Herbert Cole. Gordon was a member of the St. John's Evangelist Anglican Church, a long-standing member of the River Valley Fiddlers and was inducted in to the NB Country Music Hall of Fame in 1988. He was well known in the

community for his old-time fiddle music with his band Gordie Cole and the Millers and the Saturday morning CBC radio show with Aubrey Hanson.

Gordon is survived by his sons, Andrew Cole (Stephanie), Thomas Cole (Natalie), Malcolm Cole (Angela), and Richard Cole (Linda); nine grandchildren, Adam, Samuel, Jeremy, Jillian, Dylan, Tyler, Ryan, Cassidy and Victoria; nine great grandchildren; brothers, Albert and Mike Cole; several nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife and parents, Gordon was predeceased by his daughter, Susan Cole and brothers, Ronald, Charles, Gerald, Kenneth, Robert and Howard Cole.

For those who wish, remembrances may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. Personal condolences may be offered through <u>www.yorkfh.com</u>

https://yorkfh.com/tribute/details/16810/Gordon-Cole/obituary.html

Gordie was inducted into the Hall in 1988, here is a link to his full biography on the Hall of Fame website: <u>https://www.nbcmhf.com/1988</u>

Rest easy Gordie



On behalf of the Hall I would also like to offer our deepest condolences to Hall member Randy Vail and family on the passing of Randy's wife Glenna Vail. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Randy and his family at this difficult time.

The bi-annual concert in support of the Wesley United Church in Browns Flat was held on October 27th and featured Allison Inch, Noel Nason, Fred Shaw, Bob Johnson, Ivan and Vivian Hicks, and myself. Sorry I don't have a poster for this one, but by the time you read this column the show will have been performed. I believe I mentioned it in the October issue. It was a great night of tunes and laughs!

Of course there is a multitude of Halloween concerts and dances to take in and the following one is by the Steve Lyons trio and was held at the 30-Up club in Saint John, a great time was had by all!



November is as always a busy month and there are many concerts and events taking place in the lead-up to the holidays and the end of the year. Now it may sound like I am rushing things but time flies and the next thing you know it will be 2024!

After a haitus because of COVID the K.V. Old Boys Country Show is back and will be held on November 4th. Hosted by Steve Lyons and featuring some of Saint John's finest singers and musicians, this concert usually always sells out and information on the show and the lineup are on the poster below! Gonna be a good one! Tickets are available now!



Here are a few words from our Hall President Ivan Hicks on what is happening in their world of music!

October has been a very full month of activities including a house concert (Oct 1) at our home with Janet McGarry and Serge Bernard, two fine folk from Prince Edward Island who gave a most enjoyable presentation of country, bluegrass and gospel music. Allison Inch dropped in with his fiddle and we played a couple of tunes together in this show.

We also spent a wonderful afternoon in Charlottetown, PEI on October 22 as part of The Island Jubilee concert. This show is based on an old-style radio music show featuring an all-star back-up band, guest music artists, stepdancers, storytellers and early sounds of country and old-time music recorded for radio broadcast in front of a live studio audience. Janet McGarry and Serge Bernard help produce this show, which is presented on a monthly basis and is recorded during the concert at the Florence Simmons Performance Hall Weymouth St, Charlottetown. The recorded concert is broadcast on Tantramar107.9FM Amherst, NS as well as online at www.tantramarfm.ca For more information and how to get tickets, go online www.islandjubilee.com call 1-888-311-9090 at or or email show@islandiubileeradio.com. Bus tours are welcome.



A big highlight in October was the 40th Anniversary of the New Brunswick Country Music Hall of Fame Gala held in Fredericton with the banquet, induction ceremonies, concert and late night jam all held at the Fredericton Inn (Oct 14). The celebration kicked off with a week of free live music events from Oct 10 to 15th throughout Fredericton. In my estimation, this was one of the great Galas with over 400 folks attending, 5 new inductees – Wanda Grant, Joyce Boone, Tim Wallace, Sam Johnston and Tom Hoyt and over 3 hours of top-notch country music with band leader Gary Morris, a well organized late night jam with leader Steve Lyons and fantastic services from the Fredericton Inn staff. A big thank you to co-hosts, Brent Buchanan, Dwane Drost, and Mavis O'Donnell and all committee volunteers and sponsors. Mark your calendar for next year's Gala – Saturday, October 19th, 2024 at the Fredericton Inn.

President's Message – 2023 (as appeared in Gala 2023 booklet)

This being our 40th anniversary year, I often wonder how our founder, Aubrey Hanson, would feel about how his legacy is still alive and continuing into the future. I'm sure he would be pleased. We now have a new home (Fredericton Inn) for nearly 200 inductee frames. Our Board of Directors under the capable leadership of Executive Director, Linda Gaston, is ready to take on the responsibility of moving forward with the Hall of Fame.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and all members of our Hall of Fame, I welcome everyone to this momentous Gala. It is extra special to welcome all present members here today as well as welcome and congratulate new members, Joyce, Tim, Tom, Wanda and Sam.

The success of an event like this involves many parts. This begins with a good planning and organizing committee. Thank you to Brent Buchanan, Dwane Drost, Mavis O'Donnell, Frank Hart and John Jeffries for their time and effort along with their many volunteers and to the Fredericton Inn personnel for their cooperation and guidance. Sponsors and local businesses are important to the success of this event (See the list in this booklet and I encourage you to support them). And you – our families, friends and fans – we say thank you for your encouragement and support.

Enjoy a great weekend of fellowship and good country music. Ivan Hicks, O.N.B President – NB Country Music Hall of Fame



The Fredericton Inn, 1315 Regent Street, Fredericton, NB Founded by Aubrey Hanson, July 2, 1983 Dedicated to the Preservation and Promotion of Good Old Time Country

Hi Folks,

What is there left to say!! The 40th Anniversary Gala of the New Brunswick Country Music Hall of Fame took on a life of its own and became one spectacular event! We had a dedicated planning committee who went out of their way to create this success.

It was very special to hold the gala "back home again" in Fredericton, the birthplace of the Hall of Fame and to welcome our members, families, friends, and patrons to our new "Home".

Our "Main Stage Gala Concert" is always an incredible showcase of our Hall of Fame Members. Special recognition to our Music Directors, Gary & Tammy Morris, the Gala Band, the wonderful line up of performers and to the technical crew!

There was a spirit of friendship and folks genuinely enjoying being together. This comradeship really shone through at the music events linked to the Gala. Who could forget the rousing finale at Maybee Brewing Co. and the enthusiasm at the grand Late Nite Jam hosted by Steve Lyons.

There was a whole cast of team workers behind the scenes – community volunteers, sponsors, Hall of Fame members, Fredericton Inn staff, suppliers etc. Each and every one played a critical role in the planning and production and eventual success of the Gala.

There have been so many positive comments from folks who attended the event with how impressed they were with the level of organization. We couldn't be more pleased.

Vivian and I also wish to say how much we appreciated the presentation of the painting. It means a great deal to us and holds so many wonderful memories.

What is left to say is ... "A sincere Thank You and "Congratulations" to all of you for an unforgettable celebration of our New Brunswick country music heritage, the musicians and their followers.

On behalf of the NBCMHF Board of Directors Sincerely

Ivan President NBCMHF

We have more dates for the Hall of Fame Gala Concert viewings. You might also be able to watch online if you are not a Rogers customer and not from one of the regions listed below. During any of the airing times go to the link below and select "schedule" and then click on the title of our show. It should play on your device.

https://www.rogerstv.com/schedule?lid=1&rid=52

November 1 – 2pm in Bathurst November 5 – 2pm in Bathurst November 11 – 7pm in Bathurst, Fredericton, Miramichi, Moncton, Saint John

We hope you had a chance to listen to our post-Gala podcast featuring Joyce Boone as we tried to capture the feeling of a new inductee it was a great interview! Please be sure to check out our New Brunswick Country Music podcast hosted by Brent Buchanan and Reg Gallant.

Don't forget our monthly 50/50 draw the next one should start in November and the pots keep getting bigger!



https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/nbcmhf

I can't stress enough the importance of the participation of our membership, don't get me wrong, I am not trying to shame anyone or bully people into thinking that they need to be doing something, I am just saying that we hope that you take pride in the fact that you are a Hall of Fame member and that if you have any skill set or contacts that may be of help to the Hall and advance our position into the future then please do not be afraid to reach out to us as we welcome participation from all of our members! This is the New Brunswick Country Music Hall Of Fame, your Hall of Fame and we will be making every effort to expand our membership in all areas of the province in the future. Stay posted, it has been and is going to continue to be a beautiful ride!

Well folks I had better sign off; don't forget to send me any information you would like to see in the December column, and one more big congratulations again to the 2023 inductees!

Keep it country! Reg Gallant Vice-President NBCMHF (2009)

