



October 2023

Issue 9

Hello everyone,

This is the last Music Notes column before our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Fredericton Inn, also the new home of the New Brunswick Country Music Hall Of Fame!

There are events and free concerts in the area beginning on Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup> and running into Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>, the following is a list of events that I know of:

October 10-12:

- Daily Music at the Co-Op  
Featuring: Dwane Drost, Sam Johnston, Allison Inch, Reg Gallant and more !  
11:00am to 1:00pm  
Fredericton Co-Op, 602 Vanier Hwy

October 12:

- Music at the Manor  
Hosted by Brent Buchanan  
1:00pm to 2:00pm(ish) with guests to be announced !  
York Manor, 100 Sunset Drive, Fredericton

October 13:

- Supper Time Entertainment  
Featuring: Dwane Drost and Sam Johnston  
6:30pm to 8:00pm  
Porter's Diner, 1781 NB-640, Hanwell

- Official Welcom Jam  
Hosted by Steve Lyons – all welcome to join in!  
7:00pm to 10:00pm  
Maybee Brewing Co., 559 Wilsey Road, Fredericton

October 14 – Gala Day:

- 3:00pm
  - The Gala celebrations begin at 3pm with a meet and greet followed by the marching in of the 2023 inductees.
  - After everyone is seated there will be greeting from the executive followed by the blessing and meal.
  - The induction ceremony will begin following the meal with presentations, awards and photo opportunities!
- 8:00pm
  - The Gala concert will begin at approximately 8:00pm and will go until 10:00pm(ish)
- 10:00pm
  - Following the Gala concert there will be a jam session, which is open to the public as well as Hall members and will go until midnight (or thereabouts...)

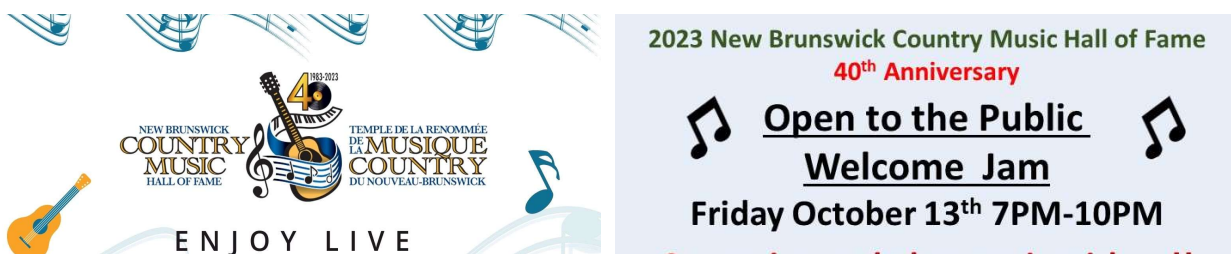
October 15:

- Church Service  
Hosted by Gary & Tammy Morris  
10:00am  
Gibson Memorial United Church, 183 Gibson Street, Fredericton

And then on October 16 we start it all over again with planning for Gala #41!

It's going to be a great week for country music in Fredericton and I hope to see you all there for lots of fun, great friends and excellent music!

Below are a few posters for the Welcome Jam and Porter's Diner events:



Brent Buchanan and I have resumed our New Brunswick Country Music podcast and there are two new episodes featuring two more 2023 inductees; Tom Hoyt and Tim Wallace! You can give them a listen at Pure Country Radio or on the Hall of Fame website.

We also have an upcoming concert by Gary & Tammy Morris. This is a Fall Fling being held at the Hampton Seniors Center (31 Demille Court) on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 10pm! Here is the poster for all of the details:

Looks like it's going to be a swell time!



Here is a report from our president Ivan Hicks and his lovely boss Vivian (who keeps the ship afloat!) they continue to be very busy as indicated in his message below:

It has been a busy summer for us both for music and otherwise. The Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Championship was held this year in Truro, NS in August with 34 contestants from across Canada. The champion was Kyle Charron, an Ontario fiddler now living and working in Halifax, NS.

We had two fiddlers representing New Brunswick, Martha Pitre and Janelle Melanson. I felt honoured to be invited as emcee for this event. The three judges were Calvin Vollrath (Alberta), Troy MacGillivray (Nova Scotia) and Julie Fitzgerald (Ontario). Kimberley Holmes of Carroll's Corner, NS and her committee did a superb job in organizing this year's Grand Masters. Next August (2024) the event will be held in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Vivian and I, along with Pennsylvania friends, Tom and Judy Kishbaugh, had a pleasant trip to Quebec and Ontario with stops in Rockburn, QC, Renfrew, Pembroke, North Bay and Douro Ontario to meet up with musical friends we have met over the years.

This proved to be very enjoyable, meeting many folks, playing lots of music and bringing back some great memories.

Riverview, where we have lived for nearly 32 years, has been celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Town all year long. On the weekend of September 22-24, we helped to celebrate this anniversary along with Riverview's Harvest Fest by spending some time with youngsters at the Wee College, entertaining them with a story and music; spent a music hour at Homestead Restaurant entertaining; and along with our Sussex Avenue Fiddlers we performed in concert at Caseley Park, Riverview.

You may be interested to know that the storybook we used at Wee College, "The River Fiddlers", written by Ron Caldwell and illustrated by Bennie Allain was based on the Fiddles on the Tobique event, which was held each year from 1994 to 2019.



On Sunday, October 1, we are holding the first in our House Concert Series since 2019 with guest artists Janet McGarry and Serge Bernard from Prince Edward Island. We are expecting a full house and great bluegrass and country music from this talented and award winning couple. There may be a ticket or two available. If interested, give us a call at 506-386-2996.

October looks like another month of many activities including the New Brunswick Country Music Hall of Fame 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala (Oct 14) at the Fredericton Inn. Keep in mind there are a number of free country music events featuring Hall of Fame artists around the Fredericton area from October 10-14 as well as a gospel church service on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Check the Hall of Fame website [www.nbcmhf.com](http://www.nbcmhf.com) and Facebook page for times, dates and venues.

See you there!  
Ivan & Vivian

And now once again we have sad news to announce following the deaths of two more of our Hall of Fame family. Hall members Reid Merritt and Bob Henry have left us to carry on their good works and legacies. Below are their respective obituaries:

## IN MEMORIAM



**Reid Arnold Merritt**  
1930 – 2023



**Bob Henry**  
1942 – 2023



## Reid Arnold Merritt, 1930 – 2023

It is with great sadness that the family of Reid Arnold Merritt of Fredericton, NB announces his passing on Wednesday, Sept 13, 2023 at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital, at the age of 93. Reid is the son of the late Warren Merritt and the late Mae (Dunphy) Merritt, born in Maple Grove, NB. Reid is survived by his wife of 70 years, Iva (Jones) Merritt. He was the last surviving member of his 6 siblings.

He was Dad to his children, Neil Merritt, Sharon MacPherson (Steven), Lynn Riley (Randy) and Joan Kitchen (mike).

Reid was *Grampy* or *The Pamp* to grandchildren Charro Benteau, the late Trevor MacPherson (Hannah), Rachel MacPherson (Andrew), Aaron MacPherson, Jillian Johnston (Kevin), Matthew Palmer (Laura), Bobbi-jo Matthews (Daniel), Amanda Mae Kitchen, James Kitchen (Katrina), and

Shonda Tilitzky (Daylon); Step-grandchildren Peter LJ Riley (Kris), Richard Riley (Wendy), Kelly Dobson (Jon), Dale Riley (Lisa). Reid also leaves behind 25 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was a good husband and father and a very involved grandfather. His wife Iva was the love of his life. She was his compass and his home.

Reid's passion and career choices were evident from a very early age. His father was a trucker and took him with him when he was just five years old. He studied his father's every move. Around the same age Reid discovered singing and not long after the guitar.

As he grew into adulthood, he became an accomplished musician playing in a number of bands, most notably the Golden Bel-Aires. Trucking was his lifelong career with C.N.R and Armour Transport.

Another artistic gift that he was endowed with also emerged early in his life; he would often be found sketching – even in his school textbooks!

He would eventually put this aside until he retired. It was then that he took painting lessons and became immersed in it for many years producing upwards to seventy or more beautiful paintings.

Reid had a deep love for his mother but unfortunately, due to cancer, lost her when she only twenty five years old. He would speak of her often for the rest of his life. He was very close to his brother Harold, whom he shared his hobby of Harley motorcycles.

He had strong values which were evident to most anyone who knew him. Some to note were: punctuality, honesty, self-discipline, living within your means, saving for the future and doing the job right. He became a Christian at the age of fifty and never looked back. He gave himself to advancing the Kingdom of God through his talents and sharing the Gospel.

He was otherwise a very healthy man but eventually Alzheimer's stole from his functioning brain and he suffered loss and well-being. His wife Iva demonstrated what it means to love someone for who they are always.

During his last ten or so years he lost his ability to paint and finally to play guitar and sing. God gave him other joys in his last years. He began to delight in nature more and more – especially the antics of squirrels and the beauty of birds and their songs. He found great contentment in basking in the hot sun and sitting out on his step and chatting with all his wonderful neighbours as they strolled by. Even some of the neighbourhood children would drop in and bring him pictures they drew especially for him.

He is much loved by his family and will be greatly missed!

We would like to thank 4SE at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital, especially his nurse, Justine and Dr. Blythe. We would like to thank his home care givers, Elizabeth Phillips and Maureen Patriquin. They are all special people and made our final days with Dad easier.

<https://yorkfh.com/tribute/details/16788/Reid-Merritt/obituary.html#content-start>



## **Bob Henry, 1942 – 2023**

It is with great sadness, yet gratitude for a life well lived, the family of Bob Henry (Gilbert Robert Henry) announces his peaceful passing which occurred on Thursday, September 21st, 2023, at the Saint John Regional Hospital. Born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on September 29th, 1942, he was the son of the late Gilbert (Gil) and Pauline Henry.

Raised on an Island farm, Bob joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in 1959. In 1963, while serving at Station Armstrong in Ontario and over the station KOLD, Bob got his first taste of what would become a very long and illustrious career as a country music broadcaster and radio personality.

His very first 'on air' appearance came in 1964 when he returned home to the Island and began working as a broadcaster for CFCY in Charlottetown. From there he moved to work at stations in both Amherst NS (CKDH) and Truro NS (CKCL). It was here in Truro where he started his very first 'Weekend Jamboree' in 1967. Truro is also where he met a beautiful young woman named Hester who captured his heart and would later become his wife. Bob and Hester married in 1968 and began to build their life together. Bob's career in radio took the family to Newcastle NB (CFAN), Sydney NS (CHER), back to Charlottetown PEI (CHTN), and again to Sydney NS (CKPE).

In 1980, Bob took a chance on a new opportunity for his family and moved to Saint John, NB where he began to work for CHSJ. This would be where Bob, Hester, and their young son Rob would settle and call home. In 1984 Bob re-introduced his original program, 'Weekend Jamboree', which quickly became popular. With his rich, resonant voice and ability as a masterful storyteller, Bob was welcomed into the homes and hearts of his loyal listeners each and every Saturday evening until the show ended in 1995. Eventually, Bob began a new career with Canadian Blood Services where he was proud to be a donor of 333 units of blood. During this period of time, he was also a National Board Member and Fundraising Director for the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada.

In 2002, Bob returned to his radio and country music roots when he was asked to reprise his role as host of the 'Weekend Jamboree', which was now airing Sunday evenings on Country 94.1 FM. Though Bob enjoyed his retirement years following his time at Country 94, much to the delight of many former listeners and fans, he returned to radio with Oldies 96.1 where he hosted his new show 'Jukebox Country'. 'Jukebox Country' aired Sunday evenings, starting in 2021 and continuing until September 3rd, 2023, when he wished his listeners well and signed off for the final time.

Bob was a member of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) 25 Year Club. In 2005, Bob was honoured to be inducted into the New Brunswick Country Music Hall of Fame (NBCMHF).

Besides being a country music aficionado, Bob loved trains and was an avid model railroader. He was a proud member of the Saint John Society of Model Railroaders and enjoyed many hours spent in the company of good friends creating, building, and enjoying a deep sense of camaraderie. Through his community of model railroaders, he made many life long friendships and the support of these special friends over the last several months will never be forgotten.

Bob was a true gentleman in every sense of the word.....but a ruthless Monopoly player. He was a gifted storyteller with sharp wit and a keen sense of humour. Bob had a deep appreciation for a good home cooked meal. At family gatherings he could often be found hovering near the stove or oven, eagerly awaiting a sneak taste of Rob's latest culinary creation with a twinkle in his eye and his fingers wiggling in anticipation.

Though Bob's professional life led to many wonderful stories about adventures he had, places he had been and people he had met, his greatest source of pride and happiness in life was his family. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather who loved and was extremely proud of his family, particularly his grandson William. He was a lifelong baseball fan of both the LA Dodgers and the Toronto Blue Jays but by far his best loved games were that of his favourite player Will with the KV Red Sox. During the warmer months Bob could often be found behind home plate, scorebook in hand as official scorekeeper (and sometimes last minute umpire) at Will's ball games. His presence around the field will be greatly missed.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Hester (nee Bushie), his son Rob Henry (Michelle) and his grandson William Henry. Along with his parents he was predeceased by his brother Rick and his sister Barbara.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care and direction of Fundy Funeral Home, 230 Westmorland Road, Saint John, NB (506-646-2424). In keeping with Bob's wishes, no formal visitation or funeral services will be held. For those who wish, donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Thank you, Bob, for the many wonderful years of memories. Your spirit and memory will live on through the airwaves and in the hearts of all who knew and loved you. Though it won't be next week, we know we will see you again " Good Lord Willin' and the Creek Don't Rise."

<https://www.fundyfuneralhome.com/obituary/Bob-Henry>

Here are a few articles on Bob's passing as well:

<https://www.country94.ca/2023/09/26/radio-legend-bob-henry-dies-at-80/>

<https://www.iheartradio.ca/purecountry/woodstock/audio/a-nb-broadcasting-legend-has-passed-away-rip-bob-henry-you-will-be-missed-by-many-1.20300985?mode=Article>

The New Brunswick Country Music Hall Of Fame wishes to extend our sincerest condolences to the families of both Reid Merritt and Bob Henry and recognize the contributions and impact these great New Brunswickers had on our country music tapestry.

Rest in Peace gentlemen and thank you for your time and talents.



I thought I would share this photo of some of the fun that was had at Sandwiths Farm with Allison Inch and Dwane Drost as they spent a fun day with Winston Sandwith and family entertaining guests. This is a great spot to visit and spend a day whether it is in the summer for a meal and a carriage ride, or a wintery sleigh ride. Great folks and country music supporters!



And here is a throwback to when Brent Buchanan stoked up his courage and came up to sing a few songs with us at a fundraiser at the Fredericton Legion a few years back! Also in the photo are: Noel Nason, Sam Aucoin, Tim Wallace, Allison Inch and yours truly. Out of the frame was Wayne Hachey on bass.



A fun evening for a good cause!! And that is another large part of the New Brunswick Country Music Hall Of Fame.

Speaking of good causes, we hope you will take time to purchase some 50/50 tickets on the Hall of Fame monthly draw. Visit the Hall of Fame website it is easy to purchase tickets and all monies go to support the Hall of Fame projects! Your support is appreciated and you can win money too!



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

Well folks I had better sign off; hope to see you all at the Gala and a big congratulations again to the 2023 inductees!

Keep it country !  
Reg Gallant  
NBCMHF (2009)

