

## Music Notes for February 2023

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the shortest month of the year, although lately they all seem to be short. I guess that's the way the wind blows, as you get older. As a youngster you try to find things to fill up your time and as we get older we wonder where the time went!

I begin the column by congratulating the new Hall of Fame inductees for 2023:

Tim Wallace, Wanda Grant, Tom Hoyt, Sam Johnston, and Joyce Boone

Congratulations to you all and welcome to the Hall of Fame!

This year the Gala will be held at our new home at the Fredericton Motor Inn and will be held all under one roof. The organizing committee is busy pulling out all the stops to ensure that our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Gala will be the most memorable one yet!

Speaking of our new home there is a Grand Opening being planned and details will be announced soon. It is the hope of the Executive and the Board of Directors that you will come and join us for this milestone. We would love to see as many Hall of Famers as we can, and it will be open to the general public as well. It will take place on April 15<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon – more details to come but I hope to see you there!

I received a few items of interest from our President Ivan Hicks and they are as follows:

I believe most of us who are into musical activities during the year look at January as one of the slow months. However, this time around we have found ourselves fairly busy this month – with our regular Wednesday evening practices with our Sussex Avenue Fiddlers; attended a most interesting New Brunswick Youth Orchestra concert at the Wesleyan Celebration Centre in Moncton; along with our Sussex Avenue Fiddlers we did an evening concert at Emma Place (apartment complex in Moncton); had a very enjoyable fiddling evening at the Golden Age Club in St. Antoine; and spent a full day in New Brunswick Country Music Hall of Fame meetings at the Fredericton Inn (new home of our Hall of Fame).

Speaking of New Hall of Fame meetings and activities, there are so many great things happening related to this organization. I believe we are very fortunate to have an Executive Director, Linda Gaston, who is so passionate about our association and is working very hard to move the Hall of Fame forward.

Our Board of Directors and Inductee Selection Committee, made up of Hall of Fame members from different areas of the province, must be commended for their time and efforts in sharing their ideas and interests in support of a healthy Hall of Fame.

Two major events that will be taking place at the Fredericton Inn this year in conjunction with the Hall of Fame include a Grand Opening afternoon on April 15<sup>th</sup> and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hall of Fame Gala on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

With our new home, now at the Fredericton Inn, it is only appropriate to have a Grand opening (a time to visit and see our Hall of Fame area, have a ribbon-cutting, a few speeches and of course, there must be music). This is open to all the Hall of Fame members and the public. You will hear more about this shortly. This Grand Opening is a must!

Another must is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Plans are now well underway for this major event. The local committee consists of Mavis O'Donnell, Brent Buchanan, Dwane Drost and Frank Hartt. There will be a week-long special free "Live Music Series" happening around Fredericton and area leading up to Gala Day (October 14) and ending with a church service on Sunday to wrap things up. All ticketed activities (reception, banquet, induction ceremonies, concert and late-night jam take place at the Fredericton Inn. Tickets to the Gala will be on sale very soon. Please refer to the Hall of Fame website for ticket info as it becomes available: [www.nbcmhf.com](http://www.nbcmhf.com)

They will sell fast so be sure to get yours early.

Our new Inductees for this year's Gala include: Joyce Boone, Sam Johnston, Tom Hoyt, Wanda Grant and Tim Wallace. On behalf of our membership, I welcome these country music makers to our Hall of Fame family.

February, a short month, looks quite busy for our selves. Along with a number of other artists, we plan to have a music session at The Old Triangle, Main St, Moncton on February 5<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm. Why not drop in, bring along your instrument or voice and a friend or two. They have great food there as well! You will have a good time.

We are looking forward to joining Sussex Avenue Fiddlers and Sylvia Campbell who is planning on an evening "Maritime Kitchen Party" at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church Hall, 28 Woolridge St, Riverview NB on Friday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 7pm. Admission is a donation of \$5, plus a food item for the Albert County Food Bank and/or a cash donation to the St. George Anglican Church breakfast program. This kitchen party is held in conjunction with the Riverview Winter Carnival. For more information call Sylvia at: 506-830-3008.

On Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, there is a fiddle doo (no potluck meal) at the Lions Hall, Peter St., Salisbury, beginning at 1:30pm. Donation at the door and everyone is welcome to play or come listen and enjoy the fellowship.

Vivian and I have planned the month of March in Florida, returning early April. We wish all of you a short winter and early spring. Our assistant will be at our place the whole time in case someone needs to reach us.



Hosted by Ivan & Vivian Hicks  
*hôtes Ivan et Vivian Hicks*

# Fiddle Doo

**Sat, Feb 11, 2023**  
**Le samedi 11 Fev**

1:30pm / 13h30

**Salisbury Lions Club**  
63 rue Peter st

Admission par/by donation  
**There is no Potluck**  
**\*\*il n'y aura pas de repas**

Bring your musical instruments  
Emmenez vos instrument de musique.

Info: Ivan Hicks – 506-386-2996  
or ivan@ivanhicks.com



**St. John the Baptist Anglican Church**  
and  
**Riverview**

**WINTER CARNIVAL**

# Maritime Kitchen Party

**Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM**  
**28 Woolridge Street, Riverview**  
Use Rear Entrance  
With Guests

Maple Sugar      Ivan & Vivian Hicks  
Sussex Avenue Fiddlers      Sara & James Nelson  
Bill Taylor and Others

**BRING YOUR SWEETHEART**  
to a  
**Fun-Filled Evening of Fiddles, Guitars,  
Singing, and Dancing**

ADMISSION \$5.00 at the door **PLUS**  
Food Donation to the Albert County Food Bank  
Cash Proceeds to St. George's Church Breakfast Program

**CONTACT**      **Sylvia or Phil**  
**506-830-3008**      **506-381-6550**



Thank you Ivan for the information and we hope you folks enjoy a safe and well deserved break down south!

Below is a picture of Ivan and Allison Inch having a few tunes, Allison went to Moncton to have some work done on his bows and they took the opportunity to play some fiddle! Ivan says they dug up a few old tunes they hadn't played much and took the rust off a few others. I wish I could have been there!



A sadder note from Ivan follows on the passing of one of our Hall members:

Dear Hall of Fame Members,

We are sad to advise that Hall Member, Al Hooper, has passed away. Please see obituary below for information re: final arrangements.

A donation will be made on behalf of the NBCMHF members in memory of Al to one of the suggested charities.

RIP Al  
Ivan (president NBCMHF)

<https://www.stgeorgefh.ca/obituaries/168148>



**Alfred Allen "Al" Hooper**  
1943-2023

Surrounded by his family and close friends Doug, Linda and Malcolm, the death of Alfred Allen "Al" Hooper, husband of Brenda Hooper (Mean) occurred at the Saint John Regional Hospital on Friday, January 27, 2023 after a period of failing health. Al was born on February 12, 1943 at St. Stephen to the late Andrew and Mae Hooper (Hatt). Al was a true family man, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and brother. He is survived by his wife, Brenda; children: Tammy Munn (Richard) of Pennfield, Chadrick Hooper (Ke) of St. George, Gary Orser (Kathy) of Fredericton, Richard Orser (Trena) and Laurie Orser (Courtney) both

of Hartland, NB; grandchildren: Cody (Natasha), Alexis, Miley, Octavia, Kaiya, Josh, Jacob, Jamie, Collin, Allison, Caleb, Kyle, Celena-K, Ethan, Logan and Summer; great-grandchildren: Emery, Nathaniel, and Connor; siblings: Rufus Hooper of Saint John, and Pauline of Pennfield and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Predeceased by Andrew, Sheldon, Fraser Etta and Marlene.

Al wore many hats throughout his life, but his passion was for music. He started singing and playing the guitar at age 10 and by the age of 13 he was singing and playing with his own band. Following school Al worked briefly for Connors Brothers in the front office but quickly decided to follow his dream and moved to Toronto. While in Toronto, Al worked for the Blue Cross Ontario Hospital Association, but followed his dream to be a country singer. He founded Al Hooper and the Blue Diamond Show Band, they had many hits plus 51 recordings to his credit. Al played at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN with his hit song 'I'll Write You Mum'. Being an ECMA winner and New Brunswick Country music Hall of Fame inductee were crowning moments. In the late 70's Al decided to move his young family home and became a small business owner by creating Al's Chicken Coop and Al's Red Lantern in Pennfield along with owning multiple antique shops in St. George. Al was very active in the community, in his early years as a Pennfield resident Al headed the LSD committee and worked tirelessly getting the Pennfield fire hall their first fire truck. Al also sat on various committees such as planning and construction of Fundy

High School, St. George. Al had a monument erected in Pennfield honoring the founder, Sir. William Penn plus volunteered throughout the year raising money to help Santa Clause come to Pennfield Corner with treats for all the Children. He enjoyed coaching Basketball, Baseball and Hockey in his younger years. He also loved to tinker/fix watches and other jewelry in his spare time. Al was a great fisherman, hunter and loved performing at various music venues across Atlantic Canada traveling with his adored wife Brenda.

Arrangements in the care of the St. George Funeral Home (755-3533) 26 Portage Street, St. George. Visitation will be held at the Sea View Full Gospel Church, Back Bay on Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 pm. The Funeral Service will take place at the church on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 2:00 pm with Rev. Randy Crozier and Rev. Junior Cooke officiating. The interment will be held in the St. George Rural Cemetery in the spring of 2023 In Al's memory, The family would appreciate any donation's to be made to Charlotte County Cancer or the St. George Food Bank.

Al was known as Canada's east coast music ambassador will be missed by all who knew him and his music

Rest easy Hall of Famer Al Hooper.



I have not been too active musically as I am going into my second week of chemotherapy and radiation but I had a great time in Ste-Marie-De-Kent at the SugarBush Bar and Grill with my brother C. J. we played a 4 hour non-stop set (not bad for a couple of old guys!) and the packed house really had a good time! We will be there on February 17<sup>th</sup> if I am feeling up to it and again on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Good food and a unique ambience. It is located on a trail and has become a favorite stop for all terrain vehicles and snowmobiles! They feature live music every Friday and Saturday.

Please send along any information on what is happening in your neck of the woods and I will be sure to include it in the next column. I would remind you that if you are sending text or photos be sure to put the attachments in the e-mails.

Hall of Fame member Brent Buchanan and myself recorded a few more podcasts this week featuring two of the Hall of Fame's new inductees Wanda Grant and Sam Johnston and you can hear the interviews at New Brunswick Country Music Podcast, here is the link:

<https://omny.fm/shows/fredericton-s-pure-country-103-5/new-2023-inductee-into-the-nb-country-music-hall-of>

I will stop here for February and will wait until March to share any more info on the Grand Opening and Gala as it becomes available. As always remember to send in any information that you think may be of interest to our members and we will include it in future columns and please continue to support your New Brunswick Country Music Hall Of Fame in any way you can!

Until March stay safe and play on!

Reg Gallant  
NBCMHF (2009)

