



September 2023

Issue 8

Hello everyone,

As I sit here to compose this month's column, I am really not sure where to start so please forgive me if I seem to be rambling on. There is a good bit to talk about and I will start with the main reasons I am somewhat unable to properly put things in order.

The month of August has been a heartbreaker for the Hall of Fame, not only did we lose an icon in Gerry Taylor but while we were still reeling from that loss we were struck another blow with the passing of Hall of Fame Vice-President Bev Gaston.

I went to see Bev when he was in hospital after his first heart attack and he was chomping at the bit to get back out and back to work on our 40<sup>th</sup> Gala celebrations. We had a long conversation about family, music, and of course the Hall of Fame.

Bev would have taken over as President in 2024 and anyone who knew Bev knew that he didn't do things half way, he was either all-in or nothing and he and Linda made a marvelous team in life and in their work. My heart goes out to Linda and the family and I ask God to give her the strength to continue on, as Bev would have wanted her to.

I have included Bev's biography and picture below so those who didn't know him well could see his achievements and love for country music:

### **The Gaston Brothers**

The five Gaston Brothers, William (Billy); Morrissey (Moe); Ronald (Ronnie); Wilfred (Wilf); and Beverley (Bev), have played country music together and apart, solo and in different combinations, since their teens. Billy, the oldest, learned to pick guitar and fiddle and taught his brothers to play instruments as well.

Recognition on the provincial music scene came finally in 1955 when Ronnie (now deceased), and Wilf entered a Capital Co-Op Jamboree and won a Gibson J-50 guitar which led to frequent appearances of the four older brothers on that show.

Ronnie and Moe played Miramichi River venues throughout the 1950's and with Wilf appeared on CHSJ-TV with Kidd Baker, Fred McKenna, Ned Landry, Aubrey Hanson and others. Wilf also played with the Miramichi's Brandon Hall Band and Moe was an original member of George Knickle & The Arrows, a band that reunited a few years ago to play summer events. Moe is still a bassist employed by studios for frequent recording sessions.

**Bev, the youngest, joined his brothers in 1993.**

Billie has been a member of a number of well-known bands in various NB localities and his distinctive voice has contributed greatly to their popularity.

For over a decade, Moe, Ronnie, Wilf and Bev played and sang gospel and country with Paul and Wanda Lyons, Russ Wheeler, Alice Long and a number of other river acts. They were also guests at Miramichi Folk Song Festivals several times and played other concerts with its director, Susan Butler.

The four surviving brothers play Bill Mullin's Miramichi Opry every Friday night and have been regulars at Ritchie's Wharf once a month in summer.

Ronnie wrote many songs considered 'river treasures' by local country performers and he recorded a number of them on CDs and cassettes. The Gaston Brothers solo and together also continue to entertain at many live concerts, fundraisers, hospitals, Legions, senior citizen and nursing homes. Most recently, they were the opening act at the 2007 Pre-Miramichi Folk Song Festival Gospel Concert.

Bev was inducted into the Hall with his brothers as the above biography from the Hall indicates, he went on to assist Ivan and Vivian in providing a successor for the Hall of Fame, I also am including his obituary below:



**BEVERLY GASTON**  
1948-2023

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Beverly Gaston, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Beverly departed this world on August 13th, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. His presence touched the lives of many, and his memory will forever remain etched in our hearts.

Bev started his career at Lounsbury's; his dedication and hard work and with the support of his co-workers he moved into the position of Vice President of Lounsbury's. After retirement Bev kept busy by continuing his work in the automotive industry, and eventually moving back to Doaktown where he ran for office. Bev was very proud to serve 6 years as Mayor of Doaktown, and serving as President of the NB Union of Municipalities. Bev loved to spend time on the Miramichi River, spending time with his family, and music. He loved singing with his Gaston Brothers, and they were honored to be inducted into the New Brunswick Country Music Hall of Fame in 2006. Bev was serving as vice-president at the time of his death. He was an active member of the Lancaster Service Club. Bev also enjoyed using his gift of chatting while working as a tour guide for visiting cruise ship passengers.

Bev is pre-deceased by his parents Lucy and Bill Gaston, his siblings Floyd, Billy, Ronnie, Bobby, Wilfred, Morrissey, Margaret, Shirley, and his former wife Deanna Stewart-Gaston.

He is survived by his brother Edward, sisters Betty (Ove), Eleanor, Sharon (Merville), and Joanne, his loving wife, Linda Gaston, his son's Nick Gaston (Stephanie), Geoff Hamilton (Meghan) and daughter Cynthia Hamilton (Jason Malcolm). His grandchildren Darian, Brayden, Shawn, Kolton, Max, and Shea were a source of great happiness for him, and he took delight in watching them grow, telling them many stories and creating lasting memories.

A Memorial Service will be held on August 18, 2023 at 2pm at the St. Andrew Church in Doaktown NB with a reception to follow.

I will miss my friend and his advice, there is a great musical reunion going on in Heaven I am sure. Until our paths cross again keep us in your prayers and petitions for a healthy and prosperous Hall of Fame. Ride on cowboy, ride on.

While we are on this sad subject, five years ago on August 25, 2018, three-time Canadian Fiddle Champion and Member of the Order of Canada, Ned Landry, passed away at the age of 97. Ned was an icon in the fiddle world and was highly respected by fiddlers throughout the world. He was a great ambassador for Saint John, New Brunswick, and Canada, and his music continues as his legacy.



<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/.../ned-landry-emc...>

One of his pieces, 'Happy Time, is used every Saturday and Sunday as the official opening theme for the CBC Radio program, 'Weekend Mornings.'

I feel more than ever it is important to stay in touch, even if it is just a friendly "hi how are you?" or a quick e-mail because time marches on as it does for everyone.



On a lighter note, there have been many opportunities to play music and entertain and there are lots more coming up. Here is a review of some of the things that have happened and what is coming up.

Hall member Claudette Norman and her granddaughter Zaida Norman participated in multiple events in August. Early in the month they entertained an enthusiastic and appreciative crowd at the 11th Annual Campobello Fogfest. The following weekend they performed in beautiful weather at the 2nd Annual Mariners Music Fest. Both festivals featured some great musicians and were very well attended. Then on August 26th Claudette played music during a fundraising dinner in support of Eastern Charlotte Community Kitchen Inc., a wonderful organization who prepares free dinners for all, each and every week. Claudette will also squeeze in her ongoing monthly gig this week (end of August) and sing for the good folks at Fundy Nursing Home in Black's Harbour.



Here's a note from Ivan and Vivian:

August has been a very busy month for Vivian and me including our annual Miramichi Folksong Festival appearance, a most enjoyable fiddling night at the St. Antoine Golden Age Club, and an outdoor concert with our Sussex Avenue Fiddlers at Victoria Park, Moncton.

This month our two Vice Presidents of the New Brunswick Country Music Hall of Fame passed away – Gerry Taylor and Bev Gaston. We attended both funerals. I wish to commend Reg Gallant on the special report he did on Gerry. This was very well written on a man who for 40 years had a column in the Telegraph Journal and promoted the musicians of this province. He was also responsible for helping Aubrey Hanson start our Hall of Fame in 1983.

Our sincere condolences go out to Carol and family.

As I am writing this monthly report, we just got home from Bev's funeral in Doaktown. A number of our Hall of Fame members attended and took part in the music that was presented during the service.

Bev would have been incoming president of our Hall of Fame. Bev's wife, Linda, is the Executive Director. Our thoughts and prayers are with Linda and the family at this time.

Also, as I am writing this report, The CN Levee on the Lake (Aug 17 to 20) is now on in Sackville, NB. Vivian and I attended the opening program, which took place at the Music Barn (Aug 17). This is year four and they tell us attendance for all days is up over previous years. They have some wonderful entertainment including artists this year such as Jimmy Rankin and David Myles. On the first day of the event, there was square dancing with caller Gordon Stobbe (remember "Up Home Tonight" on ATV), a great supper with locally sourced ingredients, Mi'kmaq circle dance with Chris Sanipass and an evening of Cape Breton fiddling, Cajun music and a fantastic presentation by Natalie MacMaster, Donnell Leahy and their seven children. If you have ever have a chance to see this family in concert, make sure you do so. You won't be sorry you did.



The Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Championship is being held this year on Saturday, August 26 at the Cobequid Educational Centre, Truro, NS. This is the first time the event has been held in Nova Scotia and the organizational committee has been working hard to make this a memorable event. Kimberley Holmes, a great fiddler and piano player herself, is heading up this year's Championship and she tells me there are 36 fiddlers this year from across Canada. I will be emcee and I am looking forward to some fantastic fiddling. I will let you know how this championship goes in the next newsletter and include the winners etc.

As soon as we get home from the Grand Masters Fiddling Championship, we plan to leave for an up to two weeks trip that will take us into Quebec and Ontario. Our main objective is to touch base with the many friends and musicians we have met over the years and hopefully have a few tunes with these folks. We are looking forward to this and it should be interesting.

One last item I would like to mention is on Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>, we are presenting a house concert featuring Janet McGarry and Serge Bernard. We have had these folks do a concert at our home venue a few years ago and they were very well received – some of the finest in bluegrass and country and also they are great folks. Check out the details below and keep in mind that there are only 50 tickets available so get yours early.



Janet McGarry & Serge Bernard  
Sunday, Oct 1, 2023 - 2pm  
Hicks Residence: 1631 Route 112, Upper  
Coverdale NB (just outside of  
Moncton/Riverview).  
\$25 and tickets must be reserved ahead.  
Contact: [ivan@ivanhicks.com](mailto:ivan@ivanhicks.com) or  
506-386-2996  
I know you will be pleased with their  
presentation. Janet has just released her  
13<sup>th</sup> recording.

Ivan & Vivian Hicks  
Down Home Fiddle Productions  
presents:

## House Concert with Janet McGarry & Serge Bernard

*Traditional Country music and Bluegrass duo with  
vocals & instrumentals. Janet is 5 time Eastern  
Canadian Bluegrass "Female Vocalist of the Year."*

**Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 - 2pm**  
Hicks Residence  
1631 Route 112, Upper Coverdale NB



Tickets \$25 (only 50 available)  
Reserve your tickets right away at:  
[ivan@ivanhicks.com](mailto:ivan@ivanhicks.com) or 506-386-2996



See you next month. Until then, "Keep on the sunny side of life".  
Ivan & Vivian



Myself along with Allison Inch and a few others have been very busy with performances in St. George, Harvey Station, Fredericton, Saint John and many other venues.

The Saint John Exhibition started August 29<sup>th</sup>, with an opening concert by Gary Morris and the Valley Jamboree here are a few photo's below:



Tammy & Gary Morris



Johnny Richard, Allison Inch, Gary Morris & Del Worden



Danny Joyce singing with the band



Allison, Tammy, Gary and Del

# Friday Night Dance

Featuring

## Reg & Anna

(Reg Gallant & Anna Thibodeau)

Where: Minto Senior Citizens Club

When: Friday, Sept. 1, 2023

Time: 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

*Come and enjoy some old fashioned country  
and rock 'n roll music!!*



Price: \$10.00 members  
\$12.00 non-members

*Adults of "ALL" ages are welcome!!*

**Facebook Page:** [Minto Seniors Club - Main Street](#)

On Friday September 1<sup>st</sup>, Anna Thibodeau and I will be hosting the dance at the Minto senior's hall. We hope to see you there it's going to be a fun night !

The Queens County Fair is September 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> here is the entertainment program:



### ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

## QUEENS COUNTY FAIR 2023

 Likes on Facebook: [Queens County Fair](#)



#### OVERALL PROGRAM

<u>Thu, Sep 14</u>	1:30 - 3:00 p.m. 3:15 - 4:45 p.m.	Sam & Charlene Johnston & Bernard Clarkson Queens County Kitchen Party
<u>Fri, Sep 15</u>	1:30 - 3:00 p.m. 3:15 - 4:45 p.m. 8:00 - 11:00 pm	Back to Basics Gary Sturgeon & Running Out Of Time Country Dance with Allison Inch & Friends
<u>Sat, Sep 16</u>	12:00 - 12:45 p.m. 1:00 - 2:20 p.m. 2:35 - 3:55 p.m. 4:10 - 5:30 p.m. 5:45 - 7:05 p.m.	Magician Jesse Campbell Allison Inch & Friends Engage Noel Nason, Cora Morrison & Country Connection Chris Mercer Band
	7:20 - 9:15 p.m.	Saturday Night Program (see next column)
<u>Sun, Sep 17</u>	1:30 - 3:00 p.m. 3:15 - 4:55 p.m.	Coastline Country Charlie Shannon and Friends

#### SATURDAY NIGHT PROGRAM Sep 16

<u>Stage Band:</u>	<u>Chris Mercer Band</u>
7:20 - 7:30 p.m.	Linda Lee
7:35 - 7:50 p.m.	Stage Band
7:55 - 8:05 p.m.	Jamie Campbell
8:10 - 8:20 p.m.	Charlotte Lockhart
8:25 - 8:40 p.m.	Stage Band
8:45 - 8:55 p.m.	Mike Weaver
9:00 - 9:10 p.m.	Sam Dow
9:15 - 9:30 p.m.	Stage Band

9:30 p.m. approx **\*\*FIREWORKS\*\***



*Performers Subject to Change Without Notice*

**Sound System:** Backstage Music, Sussex, NB



And don't forget the Fredericton Exhibition is September 4-10 with lots of great entertainment:

**NBEX 1827-2023**

**NBEX** **2023** **SEPTEMBER 4-10**

NEW BRUNSWICK  
**COUNTRY SHOWCASE**



**SATURDAY 7PM SEPT. 9**  
**EXHIBIT CENTRE**  
PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION GROUNDS : FREDERICTON

Fredericton RIVERVIEW LINCOLN HONDA RIVERVIEW Honda Consider Heritage Patrons

**NBEX** **2023** **Quick Guide : THURS-SAT**

**thursday : Sept. 7**

Draft Horses : Coliseum : 9am - 7:30pm  
Midway Rides : 3pm - 10pm  
Ride The Vibe : Motorcycle Stunt Show : Outside : 4pm 6pm 8pm  
Ray Anderson : Cool Magic Show : Exhibit Centre : 7pm  
Petting Zoo : The Barns : Noon - 8pm  
Robotic Milking Demonstration : The Barns : 2pm & 6:30pm

**friday : Sept. 8**

Draft Horses & Beef Cattle : Coliseum : 9am - 7:30pm  
Midway Rides : 3pm - 11pm  
Ride The Vibe : Motorcycle Stunt Show : Outside : 1pm 3pm 5pm  
Ivan Daigle Concert : Exhibit Centre : 7pm - 9pm  
Petting Zoo : The Barns : Noon - 8pm  
Robotic Milking Demonstration : The Barns : 2pm & 6:30pm

**saturday : Sept. 9**

Draft Horses & Beef Cattle : Coliseum : 8:30am - 8pm  
Midway Rides : Noon - 11pm  
Ride The Vibe : Motorcycle Stunt Show : Outside : 1pm 3pm 5pm  
NB Country Showcase Concert : Exhibit Centre : 7pm-9pm  
Fireworks Display : Racetrack Area : 9:30pm  
Petting Zoo : The Barns : Noon - 8pm  
Robotic Milking Demonstration : The Barns : 2pm & 6:30pm

There are lots more events coming up including the Hall of Fame Gala and concert on October 14<sup>th</sup>! Hope to see you all there!!

Well folks be sure to support local as often as you can, keep it country and I will have another column for you in October with all the details of the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, It's gonna be a good one!!

Reg Gallant  
NBCMHF (2009)

