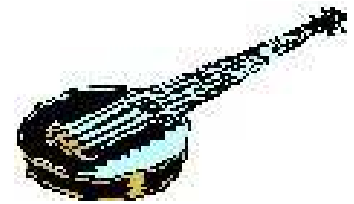




Volume 6 , Issue 8



August 2010  
Page 1

# JAMMIN' TIMES

## Inside this issue:

1. The Cotie Adventures
2. Volunteer of the Month
2. Calendar, Birthdays, Sponsors
3. President's Message
4. Advertisers & Sponsors
4. The Last Word w/Reg Jones



*The Spinney Brothers Bluegrass Band*

## REPORT FROM LIL & JOE COTIES MARITIME TRIP JULY 2010

While on our way to Nova Scotia; Joe and I stopped in and attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sally Creek Music Festival held at Dorchester Ontario from July 1 – 4, 2010. The first person we met was a gentleman that Joe had met at a bluegrass festival in Beausejour a few years ago...Wayne Uncer; who just happens to be the Managing Director of this festival. The next person we met was the Artistic Director, Gord DeVries! The festival consisted of Local and National groups, Canadian and American groups; each performing their individual style of Bluegrass music. Beside the stage shows, there were numerous children activities and a number of different workshops at different times of the day so a person could attend all if they wanted to. There was something for everyone. We got to see performances by the infamous J.D.Crowe & The New South, Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper, Don Rigsby & Midnight Call, The Charlie Sizemore Band, The Claire Lynch Band, Wildfire and of course Nova Scotia's very own The Spinney Brothers. Oh! The Spinney Brothers sure do look good all dressed up in their suits and ties. They do have great stage presence! We also got to see some local up and coming groups such as Concession 23, Traditionally Wound Bluegrass Band and my favourite who offered the hard driving, high energy traditional bluegrass sound, The Canucky Bluegrass Boys. Showcase bands were local Ontario groups Grass-fyre, HoneyGrass, Randy Morrison and the Flatt River Band the old tyme bluegrass sound of Bluegrass Revelation. Although it was July 3 instead of July 1<sup>st</sup> Canada Day, when Bluegrass Revelation took to the stage, they called all military related personal to the stage and performed Amazing Grace; in honour of all the soldiers who have, are and will be fighting so we can have the freedom that we know today. This act was memory maker for me. What left a lasting impression with us was the washrooms! Flush toilets (cleaned on a regular base); and showers with plenty of hot water...2 things not always found at a festival site. They also placed recycling bins along side of the garbage barrels that were set out all over the camp ground so that no one had very far to walk to dispose of their unwanted items. These containers were emptied regularly throughout the day and evening. They also had a number of complimentary golf cart Taxi's to transport people from their campers to the stage area and back again as some campers were parked a great distance away. They had some food vendors set up along with a music store tent (strings, picks, tuners, CD's, song books and etc) & The Sally Creek T-shirt Store tent. There was a tent that each artist could use, once their show over to meet the fans and to sell their merchandise. Town was only a 45 minute walk away and London, Ontario was a 20 minute drive away. There was lots and lots of campground jammin' which included The Canucky Bluegrass Boys whom Joe did get to jam with as well.

We found this festival to be 4 fun filled days that were very well organized as well as very entertaining. Kudos to the festival committee and all the volunteers, for a job well done!

Lil & Joe Cotie

Do you have anything you would like published?

Send submissions to Brenda at email below or call 752-2153 (Alexander)

brenda@westmanjams.ca

You can read the monthly newsletter by email or in person by picking one up at the Jams.

To add your email to the subscription list (ITS FREE!!)

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Joyce hails from Goderich, Ontario where she met and married her husband of 48 years. She says he was a local boy but he was country and she was city haha. He became a civilian fireman but worked at Clinton Air Force base. When that base shut down he got transferred to Shilo.

They have now lived in Manitoba for 40 years and while it took awhile to get used to she now loves it here. Together they have 4 children and 1 grandson.

Joyce is a lifelong volunteer and a retired civil servant. She volunteered at a daycare center until they finally hired her and now has been there 14 years. She also volunteered at a thrift shop.

Joyce is that person that doesn't know how to say no. She will be in the middle of things and working anywhere and anytime. She has volunteered with Westman Jams particularly at the Christmas concert since its inception but also at Grand Valley and at Sprucewoods Hall.

This year she has taken over as coordinator for the silent auction that takes place at our christmas concert. If you have any questions or want to help out, see Joyce.

The entire organization would be in dire need if not for Joyce. Thank you Joyce for all you do.

Tidbits:

1. *BELMONT: The community was named by John Bell who requested that a new railroad station be called Bells-mount, from which Belmont derives its name. Come on out to our remote Jam in Belmont on September 12th from 2pm –5pm*



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept 1: Gib Gaucher

September 20: Deana Cluett

September 20: Marjorie Mann

September 22: Betty Swayze



*The Canucky Bluegrass Boys*



*Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

*August 29: Sprucewoods Jam*

*September Long: Shady Oaks MOBS weekend*

*September 12: Belmont Jam*



## Presidents Message

Wayne Morrissey

### Canadian Country Music

It often seems to me that most of the music we listen to and play and sing at jams comes from south of the border. I recently saw an interesting article on Canadian country music and decided to share it.

Outside the USA, Canada has the largest country music fan base in the world. Canadian country music originated in Atlantic Canada in the form of Celtic folk music popular amongst Irish and Scottish immigrants to Canada's Maritime provinces. Country music in this region draws many parallels to the US south and Appalachia. All three regions are rural areas with heavy populations of British Isles stock and it seems natural that the development of country music in the Maritimes mirrored the development of country music in the US south and Appalachia.

Don Messer's Jubilee broadcast out of Halifax from 1957 to 1969. It out drew the Ed Sullivan show from the United States and became the number one rated show in Canada throughout much of the 1960s. Don Messer's Jubilee followed a consistent format throughout its years, beginning with the tune "**Goin' To The Barn dance Tonight**," followed by fiddle tunes by Don and his Islanders, songs by Marg Osborne and Charlie Chamberlain, a featured guest performance and a closing hymn. The show then ended with "**Till We Meet Again**."

The guest performance slot gave national exposure to many young Canadian musicians including **Stompin' Tom Connors, Catherine McKinnon, Wilf Carter and Anne Murray**. The cancellation of the show by CBC in 1969 created a nation wide protest including the raising of the matter in the House Of Commons.

Despite this country's roots in the Maritimes, many traditional Canadian country artists are spread out across this country and into the USA. They include such notable names as Shania Twain, Blue Rodeo, Hank Snow, Doc Walker, Emerson Drive, Paul Brandt, Charlie Major, The Wilkinsons, Terri Clark, Corb Lund, Michelle Wright and many more.

On a personal note I just can't conclude this article without giving some ink to my all time favorite Canadian country singer, the Country Gentleman himself, good ol' **Tommy Hunter**. I was always in front of the TV every Friday night at nine o'clock sharp when he was on the air and I still haven't forgiven the CBC moguls for cancelling his show.

I had the pleasure of meeting him many years ago at one of his live performances. I've seen him perform several times in person, including at a show not too long ago in the Centennial Auditorium in Brandon. What a fine gentleman and great singer he still is. It brings to mind a lot of the great old classical artists who have passed on or who are no longer front and centre on the country music scene and that kinda' brings a lump to the throat...I guess life goes on even in the world of music...but in the words of The Possum..." I Wonder, Who's Gonna' Fill Their Shoes"?

Keep on pickin'

Wayne

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FROM THE EDITORS DESK

In September at our month-end Jam you are going to be asked to vote for a new Executive. Yes its been two whole years since our current Executive took over the reins of our wonderful club and they have done a marvelous job. However in the interests of including more of you in the process and also bringing in some new and fresh ideas the current crew has decided not to renew their bid for their positions.

With the competent help of Bill Humberstone and Ken Marshall as the Nominating Committee we are able to give you a glimpse of the people who have agreed to run for the 4 Executive positions. You now have a little over a month to decide who you will cast your ballot for and remember to attend the September 26th Jam at Sprucewoods where you will vote by secret ballot.

Remember if you don't' vote, you can't complain !!

Sooooo....Here are your Nominees



**BRENDA HUBBARD**

**President**



**BILL HUMBERSTONE**

**OR**



**VICE PRESIDENT**



**BILL HUMBERSTONE**

**OR**

**KEN MARSHALL**



**SECRETARY**



**AMY TROTZ**

**OR**

**GAIL MCCRADY**



**TREASURER**



**DIANA HAGGERTY**

**OR**

**BARB FORBES**



# REG'S RAMBLINGS

(We're letting him have the last word hehe)

## Modern Recording

Being a bit of a sucker for the recording processes most of my life it is no small miracle that I appreciate the rather ease of use gadgets available these days. In the past the machines available were messy acetate tape machines with noisy inputs, various mechanical drives and battery guzzling monsters with very difficult editing features. I used to spend hours and hours hooked up to a local radio station recording the latest songs in order to keep up to date with new material that we used in our dance band. Before presenting a new song to our customers I used to record myself to fine-tune my ability to sing or play a certain song close to the original. Now, if a change was necessary to make it danceable, I could listen to myself and make adjustments as necessary. This is still a great way to become a better musician and singer of songs. A few months ago I stopped into a local music store to collect a donation for our annual Christmas show and I spotted a little hand held digital recorder and right away I knew I had to have one. It just so happened about that time my "old faithful cassette recorder" came to a grinding tape chewing stop. I tried to get it repaired but most of the service places I called almost laughed at me for trying to hang on to a dying breed and informed me they don't repair these anymore. Reluctantly, I gave up. I made my way into that music store and bought the new digital hand-held device that I had seen earlier. As it turns out, this was a good move. Not only does it record true to life but it has the ability to do minor editing and multi-tracking. They usually come with a wall-wart converter so you can plug it into a wall socket or use the batteries for portable use. The one I bought uses two "AAA" and I have only replaced them once in 3 months. Mine also uses a "SD" type of memory card to store my home made masterpieces. After recording my voice I can add a vocal or fancy it up with bass or lead guitar or ruin it trying to put a five-string banjo track with my old Fender banjo. Sadly, so far, I haven't done anything worth releasing to the major markets(sigh). Maybe it has something to do with my talents. In any case, these little machines are well worth their relative cheap cost to purchase. I have noticed they run between \$120.00 to over \$500.00 for the really fancy models. All the major manufacturers have jumped on board so you can have many choices. They take a bit of getting used to but the manuals are easy to read and well worth the effort. Most local music stores have them available and if you are interested I'm sure they will take the time to introduce them to you and demonstrate what they can do. Oh yeah, one nice feature I like is the ability to use one of the inputs to hook up to your headphone or line out jacks in your computer and record the audio from such sites as "You Tube" and other free services. This little machine records in "wave" format but has the ability to convert the music into an MP3 which most CD players and other portable audio players recognize. Spend some time investigating these and go out and buy one, you won't be sorry. They are very useful. When you do, bring it to a jam and record your presentation or give me some tips so I might become a better musician so I might become a super-star.. Good luck on that one though!!

Remember!!....No matter where you are....There you go!!

Reg

## TIDBITS #2

*Excerpt from "Ghost Towns of Manitoba" written by Helen Mulligan and Wanda Ryder*

*Just EAST of Brandon on Provincial Road 457 a fieldstone cairn marks the site of Grand Valley. It is all that remains of a community that died when a Scottish settler bargained with the railroad—and lost. In 1878 the McVicar Brothers, Dougald and John, arrived in Winnipeg from Grenville, Quebec. With their belongings on their backs, they walked west, following the deep ruts left by ox carts in the trail to Portage La Prairie. At that time the proposed route of the CPR's transcontinental railroad ran north of Portage La Prairie toward Edmonton and the Yellowhead Pass. Since most settlers wanted land near a railroad they turned northwest at Portage La Prairie. Not so the McVicars. They chose a more southerly course and eventually selected land on the Assiniboine River about 205 KM (125 miles) west of Winnipeg.*

*Here, on the north bank of the river, they built a dugout home in the side of a hill and settled down to a somewhat solitary existence. There were few neighbours at first although Metis fur traders, accompanied by Indians with ponies for sale, occasionally passed that way. The Metis, bound for Winnipeg from Qu'Appelle and Wood Mountain, guided strings of 100 or more Red River carts crammed with pemmican and furs. Dougald and John bought pemmican and buffalo meat from these travelers but for other supplies they had to return to Portage La Prairie or make the 35 KM (21 mile) journey north to Rapid City.*

———stay tuned for another excerpt in the next issue