



# **Bluegrass Bulletin**

Official newsletter of the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society

amming Since



bluegrassnorth.com

## The Lost and Found Bluegrass Band







With opening act Anna Somerville & Marc Ladouceur

Saturday, April 30, 7:30pm - 11:00pm

Stencel Hall-Taylor College & Seminary

11525-23 Ave, Edmonton, AB

NBCMS Members \$20 \* Non-Members \$25



### President's Message by Carolyn Hotte



Happy 15<sup>th</sup> (Crystal) Anniversary to all! The NBCMS is celebrating 15 years of Promoting Presenting & Preserving Bluegrass music. We have some great events planned! Bluegrass Karaoke at our Volunteer and Membership Appreciation Night, Bluegrass Swap Meet and in celebration for Bill Monroe's

100<sup>th</sup> birthday a Bill Monroe night with a Bill Monroe Museum, and Silent Auction to name a few. Watch for events and celebrations thought out the year It's gonna be a good one! Thank you to all that attended the AGM on February 9<sup>th</sup>, another executive term begins. It was great to see all of your smiling faces showing your support for your club. Curtis Appleton & Friends put on a superb show. I hope you were able to stay for cake afterward. Thank you also to all the volunteers during the meeting Karen Jones and Mike Gunn for counting ballads, Kayla Hotte for helping with the voting process and Sheila Hallett & Sue Decker for handing the distribution of the  $15^{\text{th}}$  Anniversary Souvenir Booklet. If you haven't seen it yet it is awesome. Well done Newsletter team! Each executive member gave a brief report of their duties over the past year; followed by an open discussion ending with Les Eberhardt facilitating the election of the board. Thank you Les. Thank you to the new or returning and past board members. Your dedication to the NBCMS is outstanding. There have been a few changes. We say good-bye and thank you to Linda Saboe and wish her the best of luck with her future endeavours and we welcome to the board Kayla Hotte Secretary, Rob Baker Concert Director, Noel McNaughton Advertising Director and Ian Porteous Newsletter Director. Terry Ruddy is the Front of House Director. Ron Mercer is the Vice-President and Anna Somerville is the Workshop Director. Bob Whaling stayed on as Equipment Director, Shawn Robinson Website Director; I remain the President and Arlene Eberhardt Treasurer. Arlene and I have held these positions for 5 years now and we both concur that this will be our last year. If you have an interest in money and finances Arlene would be glad to hear from you. All the board members encourage and

welcome volunteers, please consider volunteering for your club this year. The minutes from all executive meetings are in the binder at the front table I urge you to read them or if you wish our executive meetings are always open for you to attend and held the second Wednesday of each month downstairs at 7:00 pm.

We held our executive retreat on March 19<sup>th</sup>. It gave us a chance to get acquainted and set some common goals. We all agreed that this year is going to be a fantastic year of celebration. We will be having theme jams, Bluegrass Swap Meet, Bluegrass Karaoke, Vintage Instrument Night and in September we plan to set up a Bill Monroe Museum in honour of the "Father of Bluegrass" We will keep you posted as the plans unfold. **PayPal®** will soon be available on the website. Watch for it! You will be able to purchase club merchandise, memberships, concert tickets and register for both the Fall Workshop and the Winter Jam Camp.

I hope you were able to attend our first concert of the year with Chris Jones & the Night Drivers. NBCMS first hosted Chris and the Night Drivers in 1998. Kayla Hotte & Erin Kushniruk with Brett Sheehan and Matt Hotte did a fine job warming up the audience. I look forward to hearing more from them. Our Second concert of the year was John Rieschman & the Jaybirds CD release concert "Vintage & Unique". We have hosted John & the Jaybirds a few times in 1997, 2001 and in 2009 they did a Master Workshop. Chris and John along with their groups are very professional and talented musicians and a joy to watch, listen and maybe inspire to.

If you haven't already, its time to **renew your Memberships.** Alll memberships expired March 1<sup>st</sup>. We are delighted and thankful to our sponsors for their continued support; Acoustic Music Shop (10%), Avenue Guitars (no GST on accessories) and Myhre's Music (10% off non-sale items).

On March 28<sup>th</sup> Special Consensus put on a Masters Workshop for the music students at Grant Mac Ewan University. We were cosponsors of this workshop. It was a fantastic opportunity for us to fulfill our mission statement and introduce bluegrass to the students.

#### Publisher Carolyn Hotte (780) 922-4204 hottecarolyn@hotmail.com

Visit us online at www.bluegrassnorth.com

 Image: Application of the second s

#### **Bluegrass Music Jam**

Every Wednesday at 6:45 PM

Pleasantview Community Hall-

10860-57 Avenue



We have two more notable concerts for this season. Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> Lost and Found with Anna Somerville and Marc Ladouceur opening the show, and Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> "Bluegrass Circle Showcase". Doors open at 11:30 am Music starts at Noon and goes until 9:00 pm at the Shell Theatre inside the Dow Centennial Center in Fort Saskatchewan.

#### Bring a friend to one or both of these concerts. Lets introduce more people to bluegrass, the music we love!

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** come on down to the Bluegrass Swap Meet. Do you have any bluegrass items you would like to trade or sell? Items could be DVDs CDs, instruments, posters to name a few. The possibilities are endless. To reserve a table please contact any one of the executive.

**May 25<sup>th</sup>** we will host our Annual Volunteer & Membership Appreciation night. This year's party will include Bluegrass

Karaoke, jamming, snacks and refreshments. Who will be the 2011/2012 volunteer of the year? Nominations accepted at the Jam until May  $18^{th}$ .

**June 15<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for the Music Merit Award. Each fiscal year the NBCMS Executive allocates \$2000.00 to the NBCMS Music Merit Award fund. Distribution of these funds will occur once per year in June. Applications are available to download from our website and on the front table at the jam.

**Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup>** we will be having a Homecoming Jam at the place where we began ....the Fiddlers Roost. Jamming begins at 1:00 pm.

Visit our website often for updates. www.bluegrassnorth.com THANK YOU to all of our members, volunteers and participants without whom we would be nothing. *Keep on Jammin'* 



The New Executive

### A Greeting from the new Newsletter Director-Ian Porteous

Hello everybody out there.For those of you who don't me, I have actually been playing and singing Bluegrass since the mid-nineties in the Edmonton area and have played in several bands including The Chickensnails Roadshow, The Riverdale Bluegrass Band and now most recently the IGP Stringband. However, I am also the road manager and performer of an educational touring act called Les Bûcherons, that shares Canadian History and Traditional French Canadian Culture in schools all across Canada, and this has kept me on the go for the better part of 10 years. My heart has always

been with Bluegrass since I first heard Ricky Scaggs sing on AM radio in the early eighties. Thanks to electronic technology I am happy to have launched a new look for the Bluegrass Bulletin. Filling the shoes of Linda Saboe is quite the task, I'm so grateful to have such a great example to follow. I really encourage all of you readers to share and submit anything you like pertinent to the Northern Bluegrass Circle Club. I quite enjoy stringing together these pages and would greatly appreciate any submissions and feedback for the upcoming newsletters.



## "The Kayla and Erin Show"



If you weren't at Stencil Hall on January 28th, you missed one of the best bluegrass shows of the season. The Kayla and Erin Show donned the stage with a band that was right in tune. Now, Kayla, you all know her. Kayla Hotte, mandolinist extraordinaire and Erin Kushniruk the singing, songwriter, guitar player had a hot band with them. Playing 5-string and some fiddle was Kaylas' brother, Matt Hotte and on the dog-house bass, holdin' down a steady beat, was Brett Sheehan.

These guys got to do six songs. When they started off with "Those Memories", with Kayla singing lead, one knew that they were in for a treat. Erin went on to sing "Heaven Sent" and sounded like an angel singing it. The Bluegrass Special would have made "Bill" proud. The band really gelled on this tune. Everybody took a break or two including Erin and Brett.

The end of the show was a song that was a great duet sung by both gals. It was called "Who Will Sing for Me". What an evening! These guys made me proud.

And closing for them was none other than Chris Jones and the Night Drivers.

## "Chris Jones and the Night Drivers"



Chris Jones showed what the "low lonesome sound of bluegrass music" really sounds like. His band was top-notch. I laughed, I cried, I sighed and I thought I died with the show that they presented. They did a song called the "Cabin of Death". Check it out on itunes. Everybody dies! It's grisly.... but it's a great song. The "Infamous String Dusters" had a hit song on the Bluegrass Unlimited charts called "Fork in the Road". Chris wrote that song. C.J. and his Night Drivers played that song showing how Chris could make his song ... his song!! It was awesome!

Ned Luberecki, first job, comedian and second job, banjo player, played a song called....well gosh, I don't know what it was called. But he showed everybody how he could take one Ralph Stanley lick and play that lick and have the band change chords five times to five different keys! And that lick kept workin'! Until they hit B-flat. It was hilarious!

Now they just didn't do their own music, when they hit off with JD Crowe's "Head Over Heals In Love with You", it was like listening to an LP from the seventies. Mandolinist, Mark Stoffel, did an old song from the Sound of Music which was absolutely mind-boggling. It was called Edelweiss. John Weisberger played bass and had great pipes. He's been with Chris for nine years, Ned joined them three weeks later. And Mark's been playing with them for three years. They are a band to reckon with! Chris Jones hosts a bluegrass program on Sirius radio called "Bluegrass Junction" and Ned, every Sunday on the same station, hosts a banjo workshop.

If you'd like to volunteer to be in the green room or to look after the band CD's give me a holler. My number is 780-460-4297.



Rob Baker



Ian (780) 996 8520, iangporteous@gmail.com



**Ian Porteous** has been playing Bluegrass and Old time Music for 20 years. He's been to music camps almost every summer and believes the best way to learn is **to play with others and to immerse yourself**. He has developed a **Foundation Music Coaching System** that works on most stringed instruments. If you're ready for a blast of enthusiasm and effective teaching concepts and strategies, you're ready for the Lumberjack Music Camp. This year the theme of the camp is:

> Bill Monroe – "The Father of Bluegrass" Breaking down 6 popular BG songs Kick offs, endings, timing and tone.

**Braden Gates** is from Fort Saskatchewan, his Father, Troy Gates, taught him how to play the fiddle when he was a young boy. In 2010 he was a finalist in the Canadian Grand Masters and the Grand North American in Radway, AB. At this years music camp, Braden will be focussing on:

-Scales, arpeggios and chords -Right hand technique -How to back up singers and songwriters -Canadian Old-time fiddle hits.



Braden (780) 998 4817, bgatesmusic@hotmail.com



Rhea (780) 554 6243, Rhea@u22.ca

**Rhea March** is the founder of U22 Music Productions and has been deeply involved with music as a performer, promoter, producer and mentor for over 25 years. She's an award winning songwriter and performance coach who has a gift for bringing out the very best in the students she works with. Rhea is delighted to be facilitating a songwriting and performance component at this year's music camp.

By the end of the week, you will have the tools you need to write a good song and consistently deliver a great show with confidence. Some of the topics include:

- -Song structure, what makes a 'hit',
- -Writing a hook, building confidence on stage, vocal tips,
- -Warm ups, mic technique, understanding your audience
- -Creating moments of 'magic'.

2nd annual LUMBERJACKS MUSIC CAMP, July 24-29, 2011

For more information and online registration go to:

www.lesbucherons.com/camp/

Or call Ian (780) 996 8520 ask me about our early bird gift package!

#### **Bluegrass Bulletin**



## "John Reischman and the Jaybirds"

By Doug Reid

The NBCMS brought in John Reischman & the Jaybirds to play at the Royal Alberta Museum Theatre on March 11, 2011 for their local CD release concert. This is a group of talented musicians that have been together for 11 years, which I think is quite uncommon now a days. The band consists of John Reischman on mandolin, Jim Nunally on guitar, Trisha Gagnon on bass, Nick Hornbuckle on banjo, and Greg Spatz on fiddle.

The band hit the stage running, as there was no warm up band. Their sets consisted of quite a few songs off their new CD called "*Vintage and Unique*". The music on this CD is just that, vintage and unique, as it has some old and traditional standards such as "Shady Grove", "Last Chance" and Bill Monroe's "The First Whippoorwill". It has some unique songs that band members have written. John wrote "The Old Grove", which is named after a stand of old growth redwoods. You could envision the trees growing in response to them as they played this tune. He also wrote "The Cypress Hills" and the "Bitterroot Waltz" for the CD, which are two great songs.

Jim's "Consider Me got toes tapping, and he My Pocket" from the Jim is known for his guiceived Grammy and with John) for his play-

Trisha wrote "Hurry Up went fishing when she the fall harvesting. While sums were doing the harvest is various berries, sampling of to sell (she cles).



Gone" is lively tune that earlier sang "A Dime in bands previous album. tar work and has re-IBMA awards (along ing.

and Harvest", after she should have been doing she was fishing the posharvesting. Some of her which she brought a must do well in jam cir-

Greg wrote "Lancaster Sound" which was written for his great-great uncle Sir John Franklin of the famous lost Franklin Expedition. This song has a sweet yet high lonesome sound that fits the story of the expedition. Later on, the band played "Bitterroot Waltz", and we had the pleasure of listening to some twin fiddles as Greg's wife Caridwen Irvine-Spatz came on stage to play alongside her husband.

Nick is known for his two-finger roll on his banjo, and when he played his "Cleo Belle" his chiming in the tune made it sound like splashing in the water.

The band played "Gabriel's Call" for Carolyn Hotte, President of the NBCMS, as it is one of her favorites.

As you can see, they are all fine musicians and they make their instruments look very easy to play. Their sound is crisp and clean, even when the songs are fast and hard driving. I guess this is why they have been playing together for as long as they have.

A lot of folks came out in the cold weather to hear this hot band. I have heard them several times now and they are getting better every time I hear them, and that's what keeps people coming back.



### May 18<sup>th</sup> Bluegrass Swap Meet

Do you have any bluegrass items you would like to trade or sell? Items could be DVDs CDs, books, posters, picks, tuners and instruments to name a few.

The possibilities are endless.

To reserve a table please contact any one of the executive.

#### Bill Monroe's First Choice

Did you know that the mandolin was not Bill Monroe's first choice of instruments to learn as a young boy? It was a fiddle. As a matter of fact it wasn't even his second choice which was the guitar. By default young Bill, the future father of Bluegrass, was told to play the mandolin. Being the youngest of six children in a family band he was pretty low in the pecking order (or picking order if you will) and didn't have much to say about it.

His older brothers also made him play with only four strings instead of the traditional mandolin's eight strings because they didn't want little brother playing too loud.

### man·do·lin [man-dl-in, man-dl-in]

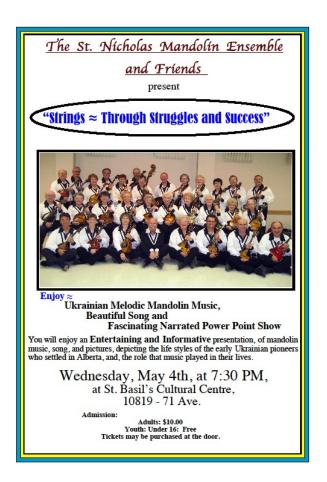
a plucked stringed instrument related to the lute, having four pairs of strings tuned in ascending fifths stretched over a small light body with a fretted fingerboard. It is usually played with a plectrum, long notes being sustained by the tremolo





Mandolin Lessons with Rob Baker

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- Reference provided
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## The Lost and Found Bluegrass Band

www.lostandfoundbluegrass.com

Lost and Found was Formed in 1973. The original line-up of the Lost & Found bluegrass band consisted of bass player Allen Mills, banjo player Gene Parker, mandolin player Dempsey Young and guitarist Roger Handy. The band became quite popular playing bluegrass festivals, with Mills' exceptional song writing contributing much to the group's fame "Love of the Mountains...," has become a contemporary bluegrass standard. In addition to contemporary songs, the band also records more traditional songs. Most of their albums feature similar material, and the band continues to be a strong positive force in contemporary bluegrass music.

Concert Opener: no strangers to the NBCMS:



## Anna Sommerville and Marc Ladouceur

Marc Ladouceur has been a long-time musical collaborator with Anna Somerville. Each enjoys many styles of music, but a **shared love for bluegrass** brought Anna & Marc together. Their blend of bluegrass, old-time and folk results in an authentic sound. Anna's vocal style is one of quiet intensity that relies on the musical finesse of Marc to enhance the tunes. Together they draw out the intention of the song.

Anna draws from various musical influences and life experiences that are reflected in her song writing. Marc is best known as an exceptional guitar and mandolin player as well as singer with the popular Alberta band Down to the Wood. Marc also performs regularly as a sideman for numerous folk and country artists across western Canada and the United States.

Marc & Anna enjoy the company of the other while presenting original and traditional music.

Doors 7:30 \* Show 8:00 pm NBCMS Members \$20 \* Non-Members \$25 Tickets available on-line <u>www.tixonthesquare.ca</u> or charge by phone 1-877-888-1757





We are pleased to announce that **PayPal**® will soon be available on the website. **Watch for it!** Shortly you will be able to purchase memberships, club merchandise, concert tickets and register for both the Fall Workshop and Winter Jam Camp on-line using **PayPal**®

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Sunday 9 pm

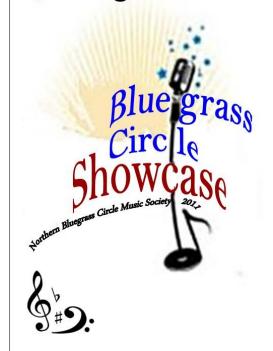
### Calendar of Events

Calendar	of Events	CKUA - 94.9 FM Fire on the MountainThursday 6 pmCJSR - 88.5 FM Prairie PickinThursday 7 pm
June 17-19	Can. Rockies BG Festival	David Thompson Resort, Nordegg
June 25	Bluegrass Circle Showcase	Dow Centennial, Fort Saskatchewan
June 26	Homecoming Jam	Fiddlers Roost, 8906 99 Street, Edmonton
July	Boscombe Hillbilly Jam	Boscombe Comm. Centre, Boscombe, AB
July 24– 29	Lumberjack Music Camp	Cabine Soleil, Sherwood Park, AB
July 26	Open House Bluegrass Jam 7:30	Cabine Soleil, Sherwood Park, AB
July 27	Open House OT fiddle Jam 7:30	Cabine Soleil, Sherwood Park, AB
July 29 – 31	Blueberry Bluegrass Festival	Stony Plain, AB
Aug 19-21	Northern Lights Bluegrass	Big River, SK
Aug 21 –26	BCBW Week 1	Sorrento, BC
Aug 28– 2	BCBW Week 2	Sorrento, BC
Oct 21–23	NBCMS Fall Bluegrass Workshop	Camp He Ho Ha, Seba Beach, Alberta
Nov 11 –13	East Coulee Music Retreat	East Coulee, AB

**BLUEGRASS RADIO** 

CFCW - 790 AM Uptown Bluegrass

## "Bluegrass Circle Showcase" June 25, 2011



Mark your calendars so you don't miss this event highlighting the talents of NBCMS members. The Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society takes great pride in presenting some of the many outstanding Bluegrass Bands that have met and formed within the walls of our Wednesday night jam. We are pleased to host our second "Bluegrass Circle Showcase" and we are privileged to highlight our members' Bluegrass Bands in the glorious and beautiful, Shell Theatre in the Sheritt Cultural Pavilion at the Dow Centennial Center, in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

We have 16 bands and 9 tweener acts scheduled for this event. Doors open at 11:30 am Music starts at Noon. It will be a great day for the NBCMS and Bluegrass! Visit our website often information will be posted as it becomes available.

If you would like to volunteer for this event please contact Carolyn via e-mail hottecarolyn@hotmail.com

### The Ten Commandments

(of jamming with a few apologies to the Old Testament)

- Thou shalt not come to the jam to impresseth others with thine own talent for this is an abomination. The music shall be the star around which all musicians rotateth and not viceth-verseth! Attempts to make thine own star shine, shall surely lead thee into darkness!
- **JJ** Thou shalt not forsake the beat. Thou shalt not speed up nor slow down accidentally when playing a tune for this shall be considered an abomination.
- **JJJ** Thou shalt arrange thyself in a small circle so that thou mayest see and mayest hear all the other musicians. Thou shalt listen with thine ears to the songs and shall attempt to play in one accord with the group. Also, thou shalt lift up thine eyes to look about thee, lest there be some visual sign that someone endeavoureth to render unto thee.
- **39** Thou shalt play softly when someone lifteth his voice in song, when the guitar taketh a break, and when thou knowest not what thou art doing.
- Thou shalt play in tune! Tune thine instrument well and tune it often with thine electric tuner lest the sound that emanateth from thine instrument be unclean!
- **¥1** Thou shalt commence and cease playing each tune as one, so that the noise you make be a joyful noise and is not an abomination. Whensoever a musician sticketh forth his foot, as though he were afflicted with a cramp in the fatted calf, thou must complete the rest of that verse and then cease. Thou shalt stick out thine own foot or else lift up thy voice, crying, "This is it!" or "Last time!" if thou hast been the one to begin the song and it hath been played sufficient times over. If the one who beginneth a tune, endeth it not by one of these signs, then the music goeth on in repetitious fashion until the listeners shall say, "Hark, it all soundeth the same!"
- **\*731** Thou shalt concentrate and shalt not confound the music by mixing up the "A" part with the "B" part. Most songs, but not all, proceedeth by the ancient law: "AABB". But, if thou sinneth in this regard or make any mist ake that is unclean, thou mayest atone not by stopping, nay, but by reentering the song at the proper place and playing on. Thy fellow musicians will support thee in this regard.
- **PJJJJ** Thou shalt be ever mindful of the key that the banjo is tuned in, and shall play many tunes in that key, for the banjo is but a lowly instrument and must needfully be retuned every time there is a key change.
- **JX** Thou shalt speak gentle words of encouragement to those nourished on the milk of bluegrass music, but not the meat, lest a harsh word turn one again to the darkness that is pop music.
- **X** Thou shalt not, by thyself, commence noodling off on a tune that the other musicians knoweth not, unless asked or unless thou art teaching that tune for this is an abomination, and the other musicians shall not hold thee blameless, and shall strike thee from their computer lists, yea, unto the third and fourth generation.



### Music Merit Award Deadline June 15th

Have you been wanting to take a course or workshop to improve your music skills and knowledge? Let us help you.

The NBCMS Music Merit Award in a monetary award to individual(s) demonstrating: outstanding achievement, ability, potential and/or contributions to the preservation, promotion and/or presentation of Bluegrass Music so that such individual(s) may further advance their musicality through the study of Bluegrass and/or Roots Acoustic Music at a venue of their choice. The Music Merit



Awards is awarded once per year, in June with the application deadline being June 15.

Each fiscal year the NBCMS Executive will allocate \$2,000 to the NBCMS Music Merit Awards fund from the Casino account thereby assuring that a minimum of \$2,000 will be available at each funding time. In the event all

monies are not allocated, the remaining amount will carry over for possible allocation at the next following June.

Applications can be downloaded from the website or picked up at the Wednesday night jam.





### Our Mission: Preserve, Promote and Present Bluegrass Music

#### **Executive**

**President and Concert Director** Carolyn Hotte (780)922-4204 hottecarolyn@hotmail.com

Vice President Ron Mercer (780)488-5256 coates.mercer@interbaun.com

**Treasurer** Arlene Eberhardt

**Secretary** Kayla Hotte

Directors Workshop Anna Somerville

Advertising Noel McNaughton

Website Shawn Robinson

**Front of House** Terry Ruddy

**Equipment** Bob Whaling

**Membership** Evelyn Ruddy

Newsletter Ian Porteous iangporteous@gmail.com

You may contact any board member via email from the contact us page of www.bluegrassnorth.com NBCMS Thanks Our Sponsors! Support the businesses that support our club



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The Bluegrass Bulletin Spring April 2011

Curtis Appleton and Friends at the Annual General Meeting, February 9, 2011

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