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# BLUEGRASS BULLETIN

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*Official Newsletter of the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society*

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## Volunteer of the Year: Colleen Whaling

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This year we are proud to present our Volunteer of the Year Award to Colleen Whaling. She is a very deserving, hard working club member. She attends almost every club event and we appreciate it. Congratulations Colleen!

### Summer Festival Guide



#### In this issue:

**The Works Art & Design Festival**

**Spinney Brothers Concert Photos & review**

**Fall Workshop Updates**

**Jamming Etiquette Review**



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## A Message from our President:

### Carolyn Hotte



Wow summer is upon us, and the festival season begins. Thank you to all that came out to our events over the last few months. The Spinney Brothers concert was well attended and they put on a fantastic show. Very proud of this Canadian group, they are very busy representing Canada all over the US. If you didn't get to the concert they will be at the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival this year.

Our Volunteer & Membership Appreciation night was a lot of fun. Congratulations to Colleen Whaling our Volunteer of the Year. We are proud to celebrate Colleen, she has volunteered at most of our events, attending the jam even when she was injured and couldn't play and her smiling face could be seen in the kitchen almost every week. Colleen is very deserving of this award. The NBCMS is run by volunteers and without them we would not exist. Please make volunteering one of your goals this year.

We sent out a survey and I thank you for your comments and contributions. We held a board retreat and we used the survey to shape our goals for this year. The biggest message we got from the results were concerns about the jam. The jam has always been a challenge, the size, the length of the songs, not enough

space to have break off jams. The jam does bring challenges the size varies from week to week. If the jam becomes too big and you would like to break away, the basement is available. If it is nice outside that is an option as well, if the mosquitos don't eat you alive. Sometimes, the songs do go on a long time but we follow Jamming Etiquette and everyone who wants a break on a tune gets a break. We are a jamming club and we want to be open and available for jammers. The Jamming Etiquette is included in the newsletter for everyone to review. Another issue seemed to be the hall set up, sound system and jam not starting on time. In the future if this happens please grab a chair make a circle and start jamming. It is nice to have the sound but if its not there we need to pay more attention to what is going on around us listen. Watch and play quietly, and lastly the issue of keeping it bluegrass we are a bluegrass club and our mission is to Promote, Present and Preserve Bluegrass. We have a club library and song books available if you don't know any bluegrass songs, learn some. There is a copy of the survey results on the front table if you would like to have a look at them.

Keep on Jammin'

Carolyn

## Editors Note

Hello everyone!

I am excited to present to you my second newsletter. As always, I am thankful for all the contributions and suggestions. I am looking forward to a summer filled with jamming and music. If you would like to contribute anything (pictures, ads, anything!) to the Bluegrass Bulletin, please e-mail me at [hottekayla@gmail.com](mailto:hottekayla@gmail.com).

Happy Trails,  
Kayla C. Hotte



Photo by Carolyn Hotte

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**Our mission is to promote,  
preserve and present  
Bluegrass Music**

Visit our website  
[www.bluegrassnorth.com](http://www.bluegrassnorth.com)

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**Carolyn Hotte**

**Doug Reid**

**Valerie Driessen**

**Official Photographer:**

**Doug Reid**

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**Support Your Local Bluegrass Club**



### **Phone Committee Volunteers Wanted**

We are looking for people who want to help us advertise our events by joining our phone committee! Call old and new friends in a comfortable, fun atmosphere. Follow a script or add your personal touch.

We want to make sure all our members know about our events and bluegrass happenings.

Contact Kayla at [hottekayla@gmail.com](mailto:hottekayla@gmail.com) or 780-922-4204

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## Bluegrass Works!

By Anna Somerville

The NBCMS teamed up with The Works Festival to present a Sunday afternoon of Bluegrass in Churchill Square June 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was a hot, sunny afternoon without the daily rain we are used to getting. The lazy day was spent sitting under big red umbrellas sipping cold beverages and catching up with friends. It was especially nice to support friends on stage as they took turns performing in the six hours set aside for our club to present Bluegrass music.

When The Works Festival approached us to partner up with them, the NBCMS executive immediately saw the benefits and believed we would receive enthusiastic support from our members. Many familiar faces dropped by for a visit on Sunday and overall it

was a positive learning experience for our club. We realise that better lead time for our presenters and greater communication with our membership would have likely contributed to increased attendance. One step we are taking is in the development of a new website in an attempt to create greater online interest in club events.

The NBCMS executive works on your behalf to promote present and preserve Bluegrass music. It was evident by the curious onlookers at Churchill Square on Sunday that our club is on to something. There was a fascination among the audience with the acoustic instrumentation and the approachable nature bluegrass fosters. We left a good impression and look forward to entertaining Edmonton again next June at The Works Festival.

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We would like to give a big **Thank You** to Ida Red, The Bix Mix Boys, Crooked Creek, The Rodeo Pals, Bakers Bluegrass and Hanna & Friends for each presenting a set of music for the people gathered in Churchill Square on Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Let`s all keep an eye out for more opportunities to support our members.

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Photos by Jacques Driessen





## Acoustic Bluegrass Jam

**Every Wednesday**

Pleasantview Community Hall  
10860 – 57 Ave.

Edmonton, Alberta

7pm

*Y'all Come!*

NORTHERN BLUEGRASS CIRCLE MUSIC SOCIETY  
PROUDLY PRESENTS 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011 & 2012  
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*Colleen Whaling  
NBCMS  
Volunteer of the Year!*



## The Spinney Brothers

### Review and Photos by Doug Reid

The Spinney Brothers came and played the Capitol Theatre down at Fort Edmonton Park on April 6, 2013. There was a crowd of about 150 on hand to hear these eastern boys play. They are from the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia, but they are well known around here. They have played here many times, and this attests as to why we had the largest crowd in years show up for their concert.

The band consists of Allan and Rick Spinney on guitar and banjo respectively. Gary Dalrymple on mandolin and they had Adam Pye on bass for this night. Allan and Rick were brought up on country music. Their mother would sit them down and make them listen to George Jones and Merle Haggard, whenever their dad went fishing. They played Merle Haggard's "Silver Wings", for their mother, though they also played mostly traditional bluegrass, as well of some of their own original tunes. The band members are all full time musicians, which marks their great

sound. The brother's harmonies that they are known for came through crystal clear, as the sound system was fully synced for the concert.

They played "I Just Don't Look Good Naked Anymore", which seemed to be a big hit with the crowd. It brought a tear to my eye though, as it hit home quite hard. They played other tunes such as "Duelling Banjo's", and their new hit single "Grandpa's Way of Life".

The band is also getting quite popular south of the border, where they are playing in quite a few States. Their music has been getting lots of air time on Sirius Satellite Radio, and they were featured on Chris Jones - Bluegrass Junction show on April 9, 2013.

If you missed this concert, don't be too heartbroken, as they will be returning again this summer to the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival. Get out and listen to these great approachable guys. If you can't catch them there, you can pick up their newest CD, "No Borders".



**Next Concert: Dale Ann Bradley**  
**October 17, 2013**  
**The Capitol Theatre**

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## Fall Workshop Update

by Anna Somerville

We are going to have a great big workshop October 18 – 20<sup>th</sup>.

Take advantage of the opportunities offered at the workshop. If you have never attended give me a call so I can fill you in...If you have attended before be ready to sign up as soon as the website is done. If you can't wait...drop me a line and I'll get you on a list.

Anna Somerville 780-718-3070

A\_D\_S@Shaw.ca

### Who's coming....

Dale Ann Bradley is going to lead a weekend workshop called 'Guitar Behind the Song'. Imagine sitting around playing and singing with Dale Ann. Steve Gulley is going to work on Song Writing. His Bio is so extensive I suggest you have a look at his website...you will be impressed. Phil Leadbetter is going to lead a Dobro workshop, another man that requires a longer introduction that I cannot present here....please check his website. Scott Nygaards schedule finally works with ours, so he will put you to work on the Guitar. Joe Walsh, previous Gibson Brothers mandolin player, will be guiding you around on the Mandolin. Both of these guys are renowned players and have been working together on a project they will

present Saturday afternoon at the workshop. At the last minute I was able to connect with Sally Jones. She let me know she welcomed the invitation to lead a singing workshop. James Dean, from the Cumberland River Band, is traveling with Dale Ann Bradley's band and will keep things rolling on the banjo. I have asked Matt Hotte to share all of the rhythm styles know to guitar players with you and he says he will. I was happy to invite Jack Tuttle, all the way from California, to lead a workshop on fiddle. Go to Jacktuttle.com. Kayla Hotte will teach the beginner fiddle class. I am following a lead for another fiddle teacher and will post it on the new website we are expecting this summer. Our own Ron Mercer will be showing you how on the Banjo and Don Marcotte one of Edmonton's first call bass players will keep the weekend lively as the bass leader. Greg Hodge, from Dale Ann Bradley's band will provide another marvelous mandolin class and Rob Baker is back by popular demand and promises to make the mandolin easy for the beginner.

Check out each of their websites and get excited about attending the Acoustic Music Workshop this October 18 – 20<sup>th</sup> at Camp He Ho Ha.



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**We are proud to be providing Festival Hospitality at the  
Blueberry Bluegrass & Country Music Festival this year and we are looking for volunteers.**

Are you attending the Festival this Year?

Do you have a couple hours to spare?

We need friendly faces at our booth to provide Festival Information.

This is great opportunity to meet the many bluegrass fans and make them feel welcome to the bluegrass festival and bluegrass community.

**Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society**  
*Jamming Since '96*  
Promoting, Presenting & Preserving Bluegrass Music  
Weekly Jam \* Concert Series \* Workshops \* Jam Camp

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**Providing  
Festival Hospitality**  
Located in the Gazebo in the Main Pavilion  
**Stop by for a visit!**

MEMBER  
[www.bluegrassnorth.com](http://www.bluegrassnorth.com)

If you are interested in volunteering contact Anna at [a\\_d\\_s@shaw.ca](mailto:a_d_s@shaw.ca) or Carolyn at [hottecarolyn@hotmail.com](mailto:hottecarolyn@hotmail.com)

Upcoming Bluegrass Festivals this Summer

Northern Lights Bluegrass & Old Tyme Music Festival & Music Camp

Big River, Saskatchewan

Music Camp: August 12 – 16, Festival 16 – 18

Shady Grove Bluegrass Festival

Nanton, Alberta

August 16 – 18

Nimblefingers Bluegrass and Old-Time Festival & Workshop

Workshop Week 1: August 18 – 23

Workshop Week 2: August 25 – 30

Festival: August 24

True North Fraser Bluegrass Festival

Maple Ridge, BC

August 30 – September 1



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**GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY AT:**      **www.blueberrybluegrass.com**

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## Jamming Etiquette

- The “Circle” - staggers the players so there is balance and variety.
- Keep your eye out - make room for new players so they can enter the “Circle” at any time and feel “welcome” to do so.
- Announce the song or tune’s name and key you are playing before starting it.
- Breaks go around clock-wise. Each player, “regardless” of musical ability, gets **one** turn.
- Players should clearly signal the next player in the “Circle” when you want him/her to take a break.
- Players may skip their turn at a break or a song at their discretion -not at the discretion of others. Single you pass by shaking your head.
- The tune or song is finished when it gets back to the originator. Lifting your leg is universal jamming language for ending your tune or song.
- Other players lower their volume while someone takes a break. If you can’t hear what is being played you are playing to loudly.
- When the player next to you does not know the chords and you do, tell them quietly.
- Everyone “regardless” of musical ability should be encouraged to join the “Circle”.
- Make sure not all songs are a hundred miles an hour, allow for a change of pace and pick a few slower and familiar ones to give everyone a breather.
- Tune your instrument before you enter the “Circle”. If your instrument is out of tune, ask someone to help you or buy an electronic tuner.
- Listen to the bass it will help you keep a steady tempo.

Remember to give the feature performer their turn. We often have lots of instruments playing at once, so be careful how loud you play along. If you cannot hear the vocalist or the lead instrument, please play softer. When taking a break, increase your volume and position instrument close to a microphone. Try not to speed up during your break. If you add harmony, make sure you are in harmony and that you do not overpower the lead singer.

As you observe the “Circle” you may notice, not everyone follows **Jamming Etiquette**. If you do hopefully the others will follow.

*Kindly keep it bluegrass and have fun!*

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**Our mission is to promote,  
preserve and present  
Bluegrass Music**

Visit our website  
[www.bluegrassnorth.com](http://www.bluegrassnorth.com)

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