

We're Having a Christmas Party!



A Christmas Concert
Live on the Pleasantview Stage
December 20th, 2023
Northern Bluegrass Circle
Proudly Presents
The Bix Mix Boys

The Bix Mix Boys devote their passion for Bluegrass music to excellence in vocal harmony and powerful instrumentals. They bring their unique Canadian perspective to the role of Ambassadors of Bluegrass music to Alberta and Canada.

Doors / Happy Hour at 5:30 pm
Turkey Dinner 6:30
Concert 7:15
Circle Jam to follow
Wine & Beer sales 5:30 - 9:30 pm

Pleasantview Hall
10860 - 57 Avenue NW Edmonton

Tickets available online at www.bluegrassnorth.com
Admission \$25.00 members \$30.00 non-members
\$30.00 at the door

On Wednesday December 20th, we are proud to present and promote the well preserved (I make a little joke...) BIX MIX BOYS!

This hot local band has been a Bluegrass treat on many stages including Blueberry, Shady Grove, La Cite Francophone as well as our very own Pleasantview stage.

On December 20th we will host a lovely Christmas dinner and Bluegrass social with a jam to follow at Pleasantview Community Hall.

Tickets are available at the door and online so go get yours and we'll look forward to seeing each other and enjoying a little Christmas cheer.

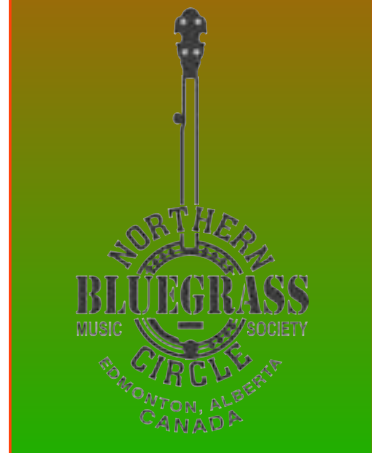
More than ten years ago, each member of The Bix Mix Boys had met at various jams and festivals while they each played in different bands throughout Alberta.

Opportunity struck when a number of those bands dissolved, and late night jams lead to the formation of a new band.

Wanting to respect the roots of bluegrass, they chose the name The Bix Mix Boys after one of the biscuit products from the Martha White flour company -Martha White is known for sponsoring bluegrass acts such as Flatt and Scruggs, Hot Rize and Rhonda Vincent (to name a few).



“The NBCMS is a non-profit music society that promises to promote, present and preserve Bluegrass



A Little Catching Up & Looking Ahead...



Camp He Ho Ha is a special place that has a special relationship with the Northern Bluegrass Circle. The name of the camp is an acronym that means Camp Health Hope & Happiness. Built in the 1950s, Camp He Ho Ha is a beautiful and well maintained hosting centre that has operated summer camps since 1960 that target creating opportunities for children with special needs to enjoy life experiences on the shores of Lake Isle west of Edmonton.

When your Editor discovered the NBCMS, I attended my first Acoustic Music Workshop at Camp He Ho Ha. I felt that this was a magical experience as each year, amazing musicians would come and spend a weekend with us sharing their experiences and knowledge in workshop format providing building blocks and strategies for musical (and sometimes personal) growth.

There were also several events at each Acoustic Music Workshop that provided rewarding challenges for folks that believe that you should challenge or perhaps scare yourself every day! Not the death defying kind

but rather the kind of scare that makes you feel ALIVE! For example, upon arrival one was expected to register and get your room assignment, then sign up for the Band Scramble. This event put together groups that would have a short time to prepare for performance then take the stage in one of the best ice breaker / comederie building events that I have experienced! There was also the open stage, and the student concert performances... There were many opportunities to try playing on stage, singing in public, harmonizing with others, perhaps playing a solo performance during a break in the melody, and countless opportunities to build smiles on faces. We must recognize the jamming opportunities everyone loves.



Since our recovery from COVID and the brief end to cross border travel, we have shifted more completely to jamming experience based camps sponsored by the Northern Bluegrass Circle. This year we have sponsored 3; in January many of us enjoyed a jam camp at Gull Lake (another fine church based camp hosting facility), then there was the jamming tent at the Blueberry Music Festival, and a jam camp at Camp He Ho Ha in September that rounded out this year's events. We can look ahead to January when we will once again host a 'chase the winter blahs away' jam camp at Camp He Ho Ha -that's January 19 - 21, 2024.

Good Times!



Good Food!



Good Friends!



Bluegrass 101 Is Back!

Bluegrass 101 runs on the first Wednesday of each month in the main auditorium of Pleasantview Hall, while just next door other members of the club gather in the Marshall Centre to jam away on tunes.



The much loved team of Jim Storey and Darcy Whiteside in action leading Bluegrass 101. Darcy provides history through story telling and coaching along with the encouragement to step out and try some singing in harmonically correct tones and some soloing to a different Bluegrass tune each session.

We are very grateful to have Darcy & Jim back in this very popular featured event that builds repertoire and technique for those that choose to join in! There's always a bit of discovery with the stories that Darcy shares about different versions or the roots of a certain tune.

We encourage everyone that participates in Bluegrass 101 to stick around after the session is over and join in the jams that follow.

After Bluegrass 101 concludes, everyone reconvenes in the main Hall and lately we've been dividing into two groups for jamming. One group is focussed on sharing techniques and etiquette for jamming, while the other group is happily playing away.



Concerts, Concerts, Bring Us More Concerts...

Northern Bluegrass Circle Proudly Presents
The Barrel Boys
Live on the Pleasantview Stage
July 12, 2023



"A PIECE BLUEGRASS POWERHOUSE FEATURING RICH VOCALS AND KILLER PICKING"
"FUN-LOVING DOWN TO EARTH STAGE PRESENCE"



Pleasantview Hall
10860 - 57 Avenue NW Edmonton
Doors at 6:00 pm
Blueberries & Ice Cream 6:30
Concert at 7:00
Circle Jam at 8:15

Tickets available online at www.bluegrassnorth.com
Admission \$12.00 members \$15.00 non-members \$15.00 at the door

On July 12th we brought the Barrel Boys to our stage, these young very talented fellows from Toronto put on a great show, bringing their excellent musicianship, enthusiasm and humour to the delight of the Northern Bluegrass Circle audience.



Check them out online:
<https://thebarrelboys.com/>

Northern Bluegrass Circle Proudly Presents the
100% Handmade Music for a Blueberry Windup Concert with
Jessie & The Gents
Live on the Pleasantview Stage August 9th, 2023



"THE JOY AND FIRE OF THIS ACOUSTIC CREW CLEARLY SHINES THROUGH IN THEIR MUSIC SIMPLY EXECUTED PLAYED TO A VERY HIGH STANDARD WITH MUCH LOVE AND ENTHUSIASM"
1ST PRIZE
AT THE 2018 SWISS COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS



Pleasantview Hall
10860 - 57 Avenue NW Edmonton
Doors at 5:30 pm
BBQ & Blueberries & Ice Cream 6:00
Concert at 7:00
Circle Jam at 8:15

Tickets available online at www.bluegrassnorth.com
Admission \$15.00 members \$20.00 non-members \$20.00 at the door

We were very excited to offer the Swiss band Jessie & The Gents on August 9th, then very disappointed to have to cancel their show as their flights out of Switzerland got all messed up and they weren't able to make their performance at Blueberry or our show at Pleasantview... we will most certainly look forward to the next opportunity that we have to enjoy their stage presence!

Check them out on the inter web at <https://www.jessieandthegents.com/>

Northern Bluegrass Circle Proudly Presents
A Fall Concert with
The
Lonesome Ace Stringband
Live on the Pleasantview Stage November 22, 2023



"THIS IS 21ST CENTURY MUSIC AT ITS SHIPPED-DOWN SHARPLY- RENDERED BEST!"
SONGLINES MAGAZINE

Doors at 5:30 pm
Chile, Buns, Blueberries & Ice Cream 6:00
Concert 7:00
Circle Jam 8:15

Pleasantview Hall
10860 - 57 Avenue NW Edmonton
Tickets available online at www.bluegrassnorth.com
Admission \$15.00 members \$20.00 non-members \$20.00 at the door

November 22 we presented once again, The Lonesome Ace Stringband. We've had the privilege of enjoying this great band in previous years, I felt this show was the best from them that I've ever seen. They came out strong and engaging with the crowd, and they've got a new disc out "Try To Make It Fly". They stated that they loved the opportunity to play for us, announcing that we're the best Wednesday night gig in the country! The jam afterwards was excellent as well.

Check them out online:
<https://lonesomeace.com/home>
and in person the next chance you get!



John Reischman & The Jaybirds



We are very fortunate to have contributing members of our club Carolyn Hotte and Anna Somerville. They have deep roots in the world of Bluegrass music and through them we benefit with the opportunity to partner with other organizations to bring larger acts to local stages. This is a great benefit for our small club.

to our left: John Reischman & The Jaybirds with Gregory J. Spatz on fiddle, Nick Hornbuckle on banjo, John Reishman on mandolin, Trisha Gagnon on bass, and Patrick Sauber on guitar.



This fine show was presented by the New Moon Folk Club on April 14, 2023. Our circle has Andy Caine as a member who is very involved with the New Moon club as well.

Andy brings us the opportunity to promote our events with the New Moon Folk Club and we in turn can be involved in promoting their featured Bluegrass events within ours.

With us taking some financial portion of the event, it allows our club members to receive the benefit of preferred pricing on tickets and this is a process where our Casino revenues are used in an approved manner to create club revenue through ticket sales that becomes part of our general account.



Our Casino Manager is Terry Ruddy a long serving member of our Board. Terry's job is to plan and communicate with the AGLC and to prepare for our club's opportunity to operate the casino. This is the largest single fund raiser that our club has and produces a large amount of revenue to fund club operations for the benefit of our members. This opportunity comes along every two years.

Our next Casino opportunity is March 27th & 28th, 2024 at the Yellowhead Casino in Edmonton.

Terry is now in the process of recruiting volunteers to work the various positions required by the Casino so if you can help out, please do. You can contact Terry at the club directly or e-mail him at TeePeeR@shaw.ca.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITOR:



I have had the privilege of my position(s) with the NBCMS board for 5 years now. Life is about balance and enjoyment at my stage of the game. I've been working hard on our personal involvements and trying to maintain my responsibilities to the club in my role as Newsletter Director and Concert Director. My personal assessment is that I'm presently 'okay' in both these roles... the adjective I've chosen doesn't align with the expectations that I have for myself with these positions. It's been a struggle to commit to writing more and better quality newsletters as the time and creative imagination are somewhat lacking. Were it not for Carolyn, you would have noticed that the concerts would not have been as frequent and the performers that we've seen wouldn't even likely be aware of who to contact when they're in town and trying to book into the 'best Wednesday night gig in Canada'. Make no mistake, I'm not feeling sorry for myself or beating myself up for my performance. It is what it is.

With that said, our Annual General Meeting is coming up in February of 2024. This is the time for members to say "I'd like to give that a try" or "I'm willing to shoulder some of the load". You can't possibly be well prepared for these roles and you can't expect yourself to be the best that you can be when you first step into a position with the board. These are positions that allow you to grow in a safe environment and contribute with a fresh perspective -very healthy elements that contribute to a healthy & strong board.

A Little Message from your friendly Board -Northern Bluegrass Circle...Did you know!

Every year, your membership with the NBCMS, as well as providing opportunities for relationships and connections to friends, jamming and music, gives back to our very own community. Our club has a lifetime membership to the IBMA and this year, we sponsored the International Stage at the IBMA awards on Thursday September 28, 2023 at the Martin Marietta Centre for the Performing Arts in Raleigh, North Carolina.

We've just this year concluded a 5 year funding partnership with the Blueberry Music Festival in Stony Plain. Your board are currently considering the future of this funding partnership. Our monies have in the past sponsored the NBCMS stage and jamming tent. The funding partnership with Blueberry nicely aligns with the mission of our club so it seems likely that the funding will be re-newed.

CKUA's The Bluegrass Hour -hosted by our very own Darcy Whiteside plays a classic mix of Bluegrass and Old Time music spanning approximately 60 years of the genres. "I try to introduce bands from all over the world... stuff you've never heard before but hopefully will enjoy."

Darcy brings a variety of music coupled with an insightful focus on some of the history of this passion inspiring music.

The Bluegrass Hour can be heard Sundays 12 - 1 p.m. and Mondays 4 - 5 a.m. at 94.9 in Edmonton and area.

Calgary 93.7

Red Deer 107.7

Edson 103.7 Hinton 102.5

Whitecourt 107.1 Grande Prairie 100.9 Spirit River 99.5

Peace River 96.9

Athabasca 98.3 Fort McMurray 96.7 Lloydminster 97.5

Canmore Bow Valley 104.3

Drumheller Hanna 91.3 Medicine Hat 97.3 Lethbridge 99.3



FRIENDS OF BLUEGRASS



Myhre's Music

The NBCMS members enjoy a special and long standing relationship with a local music store... A cornerstone of acoustic and roots music in Edmonton... a family owned and operated store with family values that has served the Edmonton area since 1967! Myhre's Music has been a great supporter and promoter of the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society, for which we say THANKS!

Staff in the photo are left to right: Lydia Myhre, Catherine Robertson fiddle and violin luthier, daughter Haley, Byron Myhre, Alfie Myhre, Bob Potoniec, missing Thomas Slaymaker guitar luthier, George Back, and son Tanner Myhre.

Classified Ads

-Mandolin and Guitar lessons with Marc Ladouceur 780.221.3464

Thanks Contributors!

-Carolyn Hotte

-Maureen Winter

-Thanks to the Internet for photos and all the truths I could find...

-written by Greg Winter, edited by the lovely and talented EX-Principal Maureen Winter

One evening while Noel, Howie & Shawn were enjoying themselves in a great jam. A few women had stopped by to join them and they were pounding away on the door... pounding and pounding incessantly until finally Noel unlocked the door so they could get out! -thankyou Noel!

A fiddle playing student asks his very knowledgeable Teacher -what's the definition of 'perfect pitch'? She replies "That's when you toss a banjo into the dumpster and it doesn't hit the sides!"

-if you have an item you'd like to publish in the newsletter, please let Greg know by e-mail to:

winski.greg.winter@gmail.com

each issue requires confirmation of your desire to re-publish your item.

