

# Soundwaves

Volume 28 Issue 2

July 2003

## Newsflash:

- See the latest announcements at our website [www.summerfolk.org](http://www.summerfolk.org)
- Raffle Tickets available now at the office. A great trip for 2 to San Juan. \$10 per ticket with 500 total printed.
- Early Bird tickets sold out!!!

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## President's message

Here we are – on the fast slope to Summerfolk 2003 and what will seem to many like the end of another year. A year filled with changes and developments designed to grow and strengthen both the Folk Society and Summerfolk.

The previous year had many strong points however, it also marked a year in which the financial strength of the Society was challenged more heavily than in the past. Increasing costs of staging the Festival, Performer Fees, Administration and overhead along with reduced Grants, and new initiatives in our Winterfolk Series and Youth programming were all contributing factors.

While the Society remains strong, a renewed vision to the future has been developed to ensure continued growth in Membership, financial strength and a broader base of programs for our patrons, members and volunteers. Streamlining some of our operations while expanding our programs has been a challenge that the Society has met with courage and success.

We have introduced new membership categories to ensure that we have a strong membership base by which to substantiate continued support from the various Federal and Provincial Granting Agencies. While the new \$ 5 "Folkie" membership is nominal in cost, it does demonstrate a commitment from a variety of volunteers and interested parties in being part of the Folk Society Family. The new Musicians Membership was introduced to promote the integration of local musicians and to provide a basis by which the Society may support and promote their efforts.

The Winterfolk Series of concerts is seeing success both in patron support as well in

terms of financial return. This program, designed to bring performers of interest to our local audiences has found it's niche and will continue to grow as a successful year round venue for our members and patrons alike.

The Courthouse initiatives designed to provide a responsive environment for local performers to play, learn, interact and develop has taken form and will be a central key to success in our Youth initiatives throughout the up coming years.

A new web site designed to both inform and market the Society and Summerfolk has recently been launched [www.summerfolk.org](http://www.summerfolk.org) A great site to visit time and time again.

The formation of the Volunteer Resources Committee and renewed activity of the Membership Committee will continue to grow our strength from within the organization. Special attention is being given to these areas as the Volunteers are the core strength of the Society and as members, will have a vested interest in the activities and success of all we do.

These are just a few of the many challenges and successes that have made this past year rewarding. As we look forward to the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Summerfolk, we see a bright future and prosperity for the Festival, the Folk Society, the membership and Volunteers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors, Artistic Director Don Bird, Office Manager, Rebecca McKenzie and most important, our members and volunteers for their continued support, dedication and commitment to the Georgian Bay Folk Society. Through all of you, the vision of the Society is brought to life and lives in the heart and soul of us all.

Mitch Childs



“for the first time since the mid '80s, the return of the original Mercey Brothers”

## Bird's Word more regional than ever before!

Welcome to Sound Waves and a chance to chat before the big event. We are scant weeks away from our 28th anniversary and the ticket orders are pouring into not only our office but the lovely new web site.

This is a secure ordering system on the site ([www.summerfolk.org](http://www.summerfolk.org)) and we invite you to stay and browse around, make a comment and generally get pumped up with the knowledge of who will be joining us this year. It is a very exciting show, one that is full of surprises, laughter and brilliant song writing.

Speaking of surprises, I myself have been pleasantly surprised at how many of our patrons are aware and eager to have Beth Nielsen Chapman on our show. Beth has not done our festival in the past - as a matter of fact, she has only appeared (in Canada) at the Guelph Songwriters Festival a few years back. This is a bit about her, if you are one of the folks who are not aware of this lady's brilliance. Her hits include Faith Hill's "This Kiss", Martina McBride's "Happy Girl", Willie Nelson's "Nothing I Can Do About It Now", Elton John's "Sand & Water", and Tanya Tucker's "Strong Enough To Bend". Her latest album, Deeper Still, was released in 2002 and includes guest vocals from John Hiatt, Bonnie Raitt, Emmy Lou Harris, and Vince Gill. Beth has had 6 Top Ten

AC Singles and written or co-written 5 #1 hits, including the grammy nominated hit for Faith. As a native of Nashville, she will be joining her close friends, John Cowan and Danny Flowers for not only some song writing workshops but for the Sunday Morning Gospel show as well. This is one you will NOT want to miss.

But the main focus on our little chat today is the large number of regional acts who have accepted our invitation to play Summerfolk this year. By far, it is the largest group to ever appear on our stages from within 150 kilometers. Performers from not only Owen Sound proper but Keady, Desboro, Markdale, Chesley, (home of the Last Chance Saloon winner Rob Elder), Kincardine, Walkerton, Orangeville, Barrie, Guelph, Stoney Creek, Hanover, Kitchener and of course, the Toronto area. This is the musical performers only and when you factor in, the lengthy list of storytellers, (also new to Summerfolk this year) we will have the 'locals' covered and then some. For more on the storytelling, please visit our web site within the next few weeks for more info, storytellers, scheduling, etc. Speaking of Hanover, words cannot express how excited we are personally to present, for the first time since the mid '80s, the return of the original Mercey Brothers, Larry and

Ray. Many of you will remember the stars of Wingham's CKNX Barndance and we were privileged to have been invited to tour as their drummer for many years during the early '60s. They went on to win the Best Country Artist Juno's four years in a row. Their 1971 hit singles "Hello Mom" and "Who Wrote The Words" led to a tour of England and appearances on BBC Television. Many hits and tours followed but by the late '80s, after 32 years in the music business, The Mercey Brothers called it quits. Ironically, they were inducted into the Canadian Country Music Hall Of Fame the same year. It is with great pleasure that we present Larry & Ray to our stages for the entire weekend. They will not only appear on our huge country show on Friday night but on the amphitheater stage, workshops, an "Up Close & Personal" Sunday afternoon as well. It is a trip down memory lane for a lot of us.

We sincerely hope you either already have purchased your tickets or you are about to call our offices at 1 519 371 2995. See you in Aug. and "Thanks" for your interest and support.

--  
Don Bird. Artistic Director.

## News From Room 112

The office has seen many changes since our last issue. Phase I of a three-part plan was initiated one weekend in January where Board Member Anne Mollon, her very handy hubby Paul, and Office Manager Rebecca McKenzie were on hand to aid in the transformation. Phase one, referred to as "trading spaces" involved moving all of the administrative furniture and equipment to the west side of the office, and all of the Board and hospitality paraphernalia to the east side. Leveling all 10 filing cabinets, in a straight row, on one wall proved to be the greatest challenge. Thanks to our emergency on-call carpenter/president, lumber and shims provided the necessary ingredients to achieve great success, and now Rebecca can actually reach all 42 drawers without getting off her rocker! Bill Nixon's donation of two used computers has enabled three fully operating workstations, complete with phones, plus front counter processing functions. Our graduation to high-speed Internet access, and the addition of routing equipment enables all four machines to share files, and answer e-mails. This is a huge bonus since we can receive in excess of 200 e-mails a day this time of year. Other bonuses include a hospitality centre where microwave, fridge, coffee maker, and supplies meet to share a cozy corner, and the Board tables are

set up with ALL of the chairs, so there is no more stacking in order to make room! Staff is looking forward to the challenge of the Early Bird ticket deadline with the new floor plan creating so much efficient space for line-ups! A number of items have been earmarked for our Youth Committee Yard sale, which will take place at some future date, possibly next year's Hottest Yard Sale Under the Sun. A comprehensive list of the yard sale items will be made available to our membership by e-mail (or snail mail) before the sale.

Phase two of the project will commence this December extending into January. The plan includes restoration of the wood floors, and tin ceilings as well as new paint and window coverings. Volunteers and supplies are still being sought after, so if you can move furniture, climb scaffolding, swing a paintbrush, or negotiate a floor sander, give Rebecca a call (after Summerfolk)! Special needs include vintage light fixtures, and ceiling fans, as well as sun resistant pigments for window canvases/panels, and fabric paints. Then there is the "dream" list which includes a custom made period wood counter, and floor to ceiling shelving to house our ENTIRE CD collection, and gallery lighting to display our archives, and, and, and..... you get the drift. Come on in and check it out! This year, our infamous site-co-

ordinator, Nora Bugeaud, decided to successfully apply for the temporary office assistant position, and we consequently have more resources at our finger-tips than you can imagine. Not only does she bring her intimate knowledge of the festival itself and everyone involved, but she is followed by a loyal army of volunteers (most of whom appear to be under 18 and directly related to her) who come in to sort/stamp post-cards, alphabetize CD's, create signs, eat pizza, conduct engaging debates, and offer a myriad of other fine skills. We also have Board Member Judi Beardshall, and her trusty four legged companion, Nicholas of Yorkshire (aka Nicki) in the office so often that we had to move in a bed and watering hole for the wee fella. (We even have treats for him stashed in the fridge). You should see him in his "I'm a Summerfolk Kid" t-shirt, he looks so irresistible, that Judi had to buy him one in each of the three colours that they are still available in! In addition, Anne Mollon, who was elected to the Board of Directors in September past, has contributed in excess of 20 hours/wk to the office since her induction. WOW, Nora, Judi, and Anne create a driving force with great ideas, and a deep passion for The Society. We are indeed grateful for the contributions they each make to our administration. GO TEAM!

Rebecca McKenzie



GBFS

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## Winterfolk Music Series 2003-2004

The Georgian Bay Folk Society is pleased to announce *in addition* to our perennial favorite ,

**"The Last Chance Saloon'**, slated for **March 2004**, we have confirmed the first two shows in our series.

Both shows will be held at the **Owen Sound Coliseum**. The venue holds approx. 200 , is licensed, smoke free, and has plenty of free parking.

Last season almost 1000 people enjoyed shows featuring **Susan Werner, Steve Dickinson, Eric Bogle, Mark Reeves, and Connie Kaldor**.

### Saturday October 4, 2003

#### **Arlene Bishop** *with special guest* **Rob Elder**

Arlene, is a witty , humorous singer songwriter who has just released a new disc. Her hubby, (Mr. Arlene Bishop) is also known in music circles as Blair Packham.

Rob is a young fellow from Chesley, Ontario, who won the Last Chance Saloon in March 2003. In addition to his performance at Summerfolk , we are bringing Rob back to give everyone a chance to see this talented up and comer sing original tunes and play a mean guitar.

### Saturday Jan 17, 2004

in conjunction with the **Owen Sound Sno-Blast Winter Carnival**,

#### **The Backstabbers Country String Band**

will be hosting an old-fashioned, barn-burning country dance and pub night . The "Backstabbers' do country dances on a regular basis in T.O. to sold out crowds.

*Tom Parker* , bandleader, is the grandson of Harry Parker, of *Harry's Music House* in Owen Sound, way back when Summerfolk was being born.

With a large contingent of contra dance enthusiasts in the area, tickets won't last long .

Don Bird, our renowned artistic director, will be adding another show to round out the series.

**Series and individual tickets will be on sale for the 2004 Winterfolk Music Series starting at Summerfolk 2003.**

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## Pete's Beat

I think we've finally turned the corner from winter to spring.

The flowers and plants are all starting to green up. I've even cut the lawn once. This year I managed to NOT weed and feed our entire green-space, including flower beds. Seems the stuff turns all living things into mutants. Rachel was not impressed.

We've made a few improvements to the homestead including replacing our tired old (read leaky) roof with a modern, new barnmaster red steel model. The guy tells me it'll last 40 years. Here's hoping.

I'm truly tired of busting ice off the roof and placing buckets under the ceiling fan to catch the run-off.

The GBFS has been busy too. We've said good luck to three fine board members. Best wishes to them, and we hope they will return when things are a little less hectic in their lives.

The rest of the board members are in the middle of preparations for what will be another great edition of Summerfolk. We're busy getting the finishing touches on our festival programme, getting tasks assigned to our volunteer army, doing maintenance on our festival hardware, planning two main stages, etc. It takes so many people so much time to help keep the good ship Summerfolk on the high seas. Hundreds of hours are expended year round. And to top it all off, there's many new programmes in the works, including a youth initiative this summer, the courthouse theatre, new community partnering opportunities, new web site, etc. The list goes on...

We always do our best to make Summerfolk the highlight of your summer.

The line-up is looking great once again. Don Bird manages to find more talented performers and continues to bring new faces in to showcase for us.

It's flattering to see other festivals present acts that Don has brought into Summerfolk previously. Many of them for the first time in Canada. He is certainly a leader in talent recruiting. Reflecting on our Winterfolk series, we ended up on a bang with a very successful Last Chance Saloon. The winner was Chesley boy **Rob Elder**, and the roster of talent made it harder than ever for the judges. There were many fine acts, and all seemed pleased to come play for us. Look for more of Rob, including his main stage spot at the festival.

We also saw a sold out **Connie Kaldor** on Valentines day, along with a preview of Summerfolk with Manitoba's **Mark Reeves** opening for her. You won't want to miss his frenetic show at the festival this year, make sure to snap up his CD early as the sound is hot and they won't last long.

I have made a habit of trying to get my CD purchases autographed. I now have quite a selection of them, and it makes a nice keepsake of a great night out. The performers are only too willing to sign, and discuss their work with you. You'll also support them where it counts, directly in their pocketbooks. Many of these discs aren't available in your local music store, so if you like it, buy fresh out of their guitar case !!

We started our season with well attended and excellent concerts by **Susan Werner with Steve Dickinson**, and **Eric Bogle**. I notice Susan is keeping fine company this festival season by playing at the popular Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas along with Summerfolk alumni **Trout Fishing in America**.

I'm looking forward to seeing some of the 'new' acts this summer, notably Zubot and Dawson (Juno Award Winners 2003), **Groovelilly**, and **Madviolet** - talking about spring flowers- (with Ashley MacIssac's sis on fiddle).

**What I'm listening to now...**

local country duo **Barnard and Brohm** (smooth traditional country sound, great vocals), and recently purchased **Lucy Woodward's** disc. It really grooves !!

I heard a teaser of **Zubot and Dawson** from their website (too long to download at 28,800)-a fresh new sound, they will be a major HIT at Summerfolk !! See see you at Summerfolk. I know Don has a few surprises lined up. Don't forget the early bird deadline is looming. (there's only 1500 early passes available). With two main stages this year, the tickets are moving quickly.

Pete Miller

support 'live' music

*“It's flattering to see other festivals present acts that Don has brought into Summerfolk previously.”*



**“This year, we  
will bring  
“The Spoken  
Word” to  
Summerfolk “**

## FROM THE CRAFTER'S MARKETPLACE

Our Summerfolk Music and Crafts Festival 2003 is shaping up to be one of the best ever for craft lovers. We have a full Marketplace this year, with 40 crafters and artists offering their wares. Submissions to the Craft Committee this year were of very high quality so selecting the best was not an easy task but was certainly interesting!

A number of favourite artists are returning and we have a good percentage of new ones to add interest and vitality to the Marketplace. One of our new artists, Kim McKellar, designed the Summerfolk

poster this year. Don't miss her booth! Last year the demand for Henna painting was so strong that this year we will have two booths offering this fun "art". Another favourite is sure to be the folks who will braid beads into your hair for a new fashion look. Take your time, wander the booths, and catch the artists demonstrating their crafts during the weekend. Two favourites, the Ring Workshop and Majestic Mud are back. Be sure to leave time in your schedule to participate!

Last year, we introduced the literary craft to Summerfolk by bringing in a number of writers,

(mostly local), and having them interact with patrons and demonstrate the art of writing with Richard Thomas and the art of cartooning with Mark Thurman. The response was excellent and we thank both of them for their participation. This year, we will bring "The Spoken Word" to Summerfolk Patrons; a sequence of readings/storytelling by local authors. Audience participation is expected so check your program for times, and schedule us in to your Summerfolk day.

Summerfolk. Fit! To Be Tried.

Anne Mollon

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## Much ado about nothing!

With the daffodils pushing up in the garden and the frogs singing in the nearby wetland my thoughts turn to warmer weather and of course, our favourite music and crafts festival. What makes Summerfolk so great? Nothing!! Summerfolk is as much about nothing as it is about all the other things that it does. For many of us, nothing is known about a large number of the artists who will be at the festival. For some, the unknown is something to be feared, but to me it is a cause for excitement. Every year I am

privileged to be introduced to the musical talents of musicians and the creations of artisans I previously knew nothing about. That is just some of the magic that is Summerfolk. I know I'm not alone. 86% of the people who attend Summerfolk have attended the festival before. On average, our patrons have attended 8 previous festivals. Why do we keep coming back? I suspect that it is because we get to discover high calibre music and crafts we would not hear or see otherwise. Why? Because our Artistic Director

scours the planet for musicians that have either yet to be "discovered" or whose music is not on the top 40 play lists. Of course, Summerfolk is about much more than "nothing" so, if you like to discover new talent, listen to musical magic at the workshops on the shores of beautiful Georgian Bay then Summerfolk is for you. But then you already knew that - didn't you?

David McLeish

## BRENT'S 'DISC' OVERIES

Tannis Slimmon-Oak Lake

One of the bright spots on the Summerfolk stages this August, will surely be a performance by Tannis Slimmon from Guelph. This gifted singer-songwriter has appeared in Owen Sound previously with "The Bird Sisters" and "Benji" and now brings her solo act to the festival. No doubt we will hear selections from Tannis' first solo album. "Oak Lake" was crafted with the help of many of her musical friends and family including Lewis Melville, John Charlton and Nik Tjelios, who are all well-known in the festival circuit. The ten songs on the disc blend the strong vocal

tradition of her previous work with the 'Birds' and 'Benji' with a unique mix of folk, rock, pop and blues. From the opening notes of "Falling Together" the listener embarks on a 'train ride' of musical delights, gentle harmonies and outstanding musicianship. "There's a Lift" written by Slimmon and Melville is an explosive rendition of what one might find at a Gospel workshop at Hillside Festival in Guelph or Sunday morning at Kelso Beach. The "Lift me Higher Choir" features 27 vocalists along with Tannis and John Charlton on guitars and Lewis Melville on accordion. Effortlessly, the notes fall off the instruments and the words seem to wrap around the

melodies. "Why Can't You Read My Mind" and "A Miracle" demonstrate Tannis' abilities to tell moving stories through music. She has a rich, mature voice that is very pleasing to the ear. Oak Lake is certainly just the beginning of what will be a brilliant solo career for this genuine, mature voice. The graphics and CD packaging are worth the purchase of the disc, alone, ...but the music is outstanding. Catch Tannis at Summerfolk this summer.

Brent Jeffries

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**We're on the Web  
[www.summerfolk.org](http://www.summerfolk.org)**

The Georgian Bay Folk Society presents Summerfolk and a host of other events throughout the year. To be able to finance our operations we rely on support from individual members, sponsors and granting organizations.

Our success in obtaining these grant funds is directly related to the strength of our membership.

Please consider joining today.

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