

SOUND WAVES

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THE BIRD'S WORD

Don Bird, Artistic Director

Recently while Ali and I were on a vacation in remote Mexico, we found ourselves going on a snorkeling trip about 90 minutes away from our little hacienda. Along for the trip were folks including a gentleman who said he was originally from Finland. Turns out he now lives in Ontario (around Niagara) and as our conversation developed it came out that I was from Owen Sound. Telling me that our fair city is "famous in his mind for Summerfolk," I had to tell him that I was connected. He said he could not wait to tell his children that we had met because "his family plans their summers around Summerfolk and never miss it." Here we were in the middle of winter, thousands of miles away from Kelso Beach and our thoughts were on that magical time in the middle of Aug. My chest swelled larger than J-Lo's butt. Yet another reminder that our little party has a wide reaching draw on the international stage.

And so we return each year for our annual pilgrimage to the festival fantasy that the Harrison Bros. army of dedicated volunteers built. Filled with wonderful crafts, a much improved food section, a large children's area, two main stages

for each of Friday and Saturday nights, plus Sunday's huge traditional show and a large sense of community. Scheduled to appear this year will be performers dating back to the original shows in the '70s, newly discovered performers from across the planet -guaranteed to delight and amaze along with tons of requested acts from your numerous notes and suggestions. Yes, we do listen to your comments and encourage you to get more involved with "your favorite festival." More than any festival in recent years, this summer's presentation most reflects what you have been requesting and we are delighted to have your creative ideas and comments.

Our freshly revised web site has been quite active of late and we invite you to bookmark the site for constant updates and announcements. We have made it even easier, more economical, and faster to submit if you are a performer. Please go to our site and look up Sonicbids. This is the future for not only performers but for presenters as well.

By the time you read this, I will have already attended the massive North American Folk Alliance in San Diego. This four date event features showcases by the hundreds with performers from across the planet, seminars, peer groups, etc. This is the same event that in the past has

produced some phenomenal discoveries such as Fruit, Nickel Creek, Mark Reeves, Groovelily, - I'm sure you get the picture. We always come home with a 'bag of goodies' and can't wait to share our recent finds with you.

Soon we will be turning our focus away from listening to performer packages to designing the workshop schedules. With more world, blues and traditional acts to choose from this year, we are in for some astonishing combinations. This is when we always solicit the experience and expertise of the brilliant Mr. Richard Knechtel. It is always beneficial to get the "performers" side of the workshop experience. Oh, and before I forget, the much-requested "Meltdown" finale workshop in the beer tent on Sunday will once again have everyone on their feet dancing the weekend away.

Btw, there is a "Milk" commercial on TV running right now with dancing tractors and overweight boys. The face and voice on the end is Summerfolk fav. Brent Titcomb.

The Summerfolk Experience - celebrating summer in the perfect outdoor venue.

WINTER HOURS

**THE OFFICE WILL
BE OPEN
3 DAYS A WEEK
PLEASE PHONE TO
CONFIRM HOURS
371-2995**

**(SORRY FOR ANY
INCONVENIENCE)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE LAST CHANCE SALOON

HARRY LUMLEY BAYSHORE ARENA

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2004, 7:00 P.M.

The Last Chance Saloon is our kick off to Summerfolk season each March and a thank you to our volunteers. It provides folk minded musicians the opportunity to play in front of a celebrity judging panel and the winner of these dozen acts gets hired to play the last remaining main stage spot at Summerfolk!!! Throw in 400 discerning folk music lovers, a pub atmosphere, and some great grub and you have an evening of great entertainment.

Everyone is welcome to this mini-festival. Tickets are available at the Owen Sound Attack box office: 1-866-528-8225.

General Admission is \$12.00, GBFS members \$10.00 and 2003 volunteers will receive free admission.

OPEN MIKE NIGHTS

Join us at the Old Courthouse Theatre, 1235 3rd Ave East, Owen Sound (above the GBFS office) the second Friday each month at 7 pm for our open mike series.

Players are invited to perform 3 or 4 previously rehearsed tunes: originals or covers. All ages are welcome, sign up at the door. We especially welcome young performers to come out and develop their talent.

There will be a professional sound system and lighting. The room seats 55 comfortably.

All Courtroom Theatre events are open to members of the GBFS- folkie memberships \$5 CDN are available at the door.

2003-2004**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT: David McLeish
 VICE PRES: Pete Miller
 TREASURER: Kevin Moyse
 SECRETARY: Pam Hearn-Erb
 BOARD MEMBERS:

- Kim Baker
- Judi Beardshall
- Sandi Hogg
- Ilene House
- Anne Mollon
- Stephanie Rovers
- Derek Sparnaay
- Lynn Vanwyck

COMMITTEES**ALUMNI**

- Pete Miller

FINANCE & FUNDRAISING:

- Kevin Moyse

MEMBERSHIP&PUBLICATION:

- Ilene House

OTHER PROGRAMS:

- Pete Miller

PERSONEL:

- Pete Miller

POLICY & LEGISLATION:

- Anne Mollon

PROMOTIONS:

- Kevin Moyse

SPONSORSHIP

- Stephanie Rovers

SUMMERFOLK

- Kim Baker, Derek Sparnaay

VOLUNTEER RESOURCE MGMT:

- Pam Hearn-Erb

30TH ANNIVERSARY:

- Sandi Hogg

BOARD UPDATE***Ilene House***

If you have tried to visit the office recently you will find it is being manned by volunteers. In an effort to defray expenses during the winter months we have restructured the office functions. Board members as well as others are currently answering phones, responding to e-mails and keep the office open for a few hours each week. Tickets for Summerfolk and the Last Chance Saloon are available at the Attack office at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre. The number to contact is 1-866-5attack (528-8225).

We have not had a good winter for meetings. Our dedicated volunteers have not allowed the bad weather and the flu to hinder our meetings. As Don Bird works on the lineup, others have their part to play as well. Each committee plays an important part in the organization. David leads the pack, with his quiet way and subtle humor he keeps us all in check. He keeps a close eye on all of us and makes sure we are doing our assigned duties. Kevin heads the Promotion Committee and has been busy promoting winter events and finalizing the advertising for Summerfolk. Derek and Kim have started to contact suppliers and crew chiefs for this years Summerfolk. Pete on the other hand has been very busy all winter, he chairs the Other Programs Committee. We were able to see three great events; Arlene Bishop and Blair

Packham in October and Bob Snider and Wendell Ferguson in November. The Backstabbers Country String Band in January and The Shards in February. Thank you, Pete.

Committees like Policy and Legislation entails hours of bookwork and meetings. The present manual was last updated in 1995 and is currently being revised by Anne Mollon.

Pam Hearn-Erb will be at the Last Chance Saloon working with the Membership Committee as we organize the volunteers for this year's festival.

Kevin as Treasurer has the job of paying the bills. He has also spent many hours applying for the necessary grants to keep us operating.

Stephanie contacts our corporate sponsors.

We are all working to bring you the best festival possible.

**SUMMERFOLK 2004
TICKET PRICE****WEEKEND PASSES**

*Early Bird Weekend Pass (Available Until July 15)	\$68
*Regular Weekend Pass	\$80
*Senior Weekend Pass	\$70
*Student Weekend Pass (Photo ID req'd at gate)	\$70
*Youth Weekend Pass (Ages 13- 18 years)	\$70
*Children's Pass (5-12 years) (Must be accompanied by An adult)	\$5
* Children 4 and under	Free
<u>DAY PASS</u>	
* Friday Ticket	\$25
* Saturday Ticket	\$45
* Sunday Ticket	\$45

BRENT'S**"DISC-OVERIES"***By Brent Jeffries***KENNY BUTTERILL-
Just A Songwriter**

"Just a Songwriter" is the newest CD from one of North America's best-kept secrets. Kenny Butterill is that secret. He is everything a songwriter should be, which makes the title of the album ironic and the title cut as well.

"Cause I like being a songwriter. I don't fit the showbiz scene.

I don't deal well with the road and I'd die in the Nashville machine.

Yeah, I like being just a songwriter. Blending music with the words.

Working on my own rainbow.
Trying to be heard"

--Kenny Butterill from "Just a Songwriter"

He is clever and original, both in his sound and songwriting. He is a sensitive writer with a humorous side, too! The funny bone gets a workout on "Vegetarian Dead Cow Blues" and the title cut. His sensitive side comes out in "My Austin Angel" and "Is There More?" He is capable of taking his listener down a dusty backroad through the mountains or walking down the beach near his friends beach house. He tells of making love in L.A and lost loves in e-mails. His

sound is effortless and his words echo off the strings of his guitar like, a voice in a canyon, rich and natural.

This songwriter was born in Ajax and raised in Ottawa and Central Ontario's cottage country, but has made the Santa Cruz Mountains of Northern California his home for over 10 years. His music is thought provoking and at the same time calming. This is an album to be listened to while sipping a cold beverage in the hot sun on the deck at your summer place. The fourteen tracks all tell a story. Stories of love, heartache, death and dreams. And there are stories of heroes. The track "The Townes You Left Behind" is a tribute to the great Townes Van Zandt who died in 97. His songs, have been covered by great artists, like Willie Nelson, The Cowboy Junkies and, Emmylou Harris. In an interview with Country Music News, Kenny states that he "originally wrote it a few months after Townes died and he experienced one of those times that songwriters all too rarely have, where I felt compelled to write and the song just came out, quite quickly...it felt almost mystical." The song is a great contribution to the album.

Butterill writes all the songs on the album and appears as Producer in the album credits. What the listener gets is a great production piece filled with soulful blues, gentle jazz riffs and a folksy Americana spirit that strums magnificently from track to track. It is surprising that

Butterill does not like to tour, preferring to stay close to his home and guitar, for surely he would be playing to sold out audiences! However given the choice of touring town to town...or sitting on the decks of Santa Cruz, I would probably take the decks, too!

Canadian Festival attendees will recognize two of the voices and instrumentation's on the disc. Willie P Bennett and Ray Bonneville appear with Norton Buffalo and fourteen other studio musicians. It is apparent to this listener that a great friendship was made when Bennett and Bonneville dropped by the Butterill residence. Willie P's mandolin playing is stunning, as usual and Bonneville delivers magnificent electric guitar on "Canadian Road Trip" and "Just a Songwriter". At times Butterill sounds like Dire Straits lead vocalist Mark Knopfler, which some listeners may find distracting, however "Straits" fans (like myself) will not be disappointed by the similarity. This is a must have addition to your CD library. To learn more about Kenny or to get his music, visit www.NoBullSongs.com

Pete's bEaT

My role within GBFS has turned dramatically this year. I am now into my fifth consecutive year as a director. We are under new leadership, and with any change of leadership comes a change in ideas, motivation and results. This years President, David McLeish comes to us as a lover of music, a thoughtful, kind, fair and honest man. Dave has provoked me to do something I have yearned for since immigrating to Grey County almost twenty years ago - pick up my guitar and play the damn thing.

My involvement in the GBFS over a decade ago was supposed to satisfy my need for music. Having spent a great deal of my youth creating a great deal of noise, music has been, more or less the centre of my leisure universe. My friends and acquaintances are connected to music. And I am connected to them. While the GBFS is about music, it has been mostly about presenting music, and somewhere along the line the fun and fellowship seemed to be disappearing.

Last summer a few of us from GBFS under board member Kevin Moyse's tutelage, constructed a small performing theatre inside the Old Courthouse building in Owen Sound. If we build it, they will come, we thought. Kevin gets his musical jollies playing in a local Celtic - fusion outfit, The Shards.

Dave and I are not so blessed in the talent department, and after comparing notes once too often over a pint or two, realized we had accumulated, besides families, pets, careers and a love for music, all the musical toys folks of our vintage might have.

What a better way to blow off the dust than get together and jam. So we met halfway between his place and mine, which just happens to be the Old Courthouse, and each Thursday all winter, we pull out our guitars and play for a few hours. Somewhere along the way, we have gathered more like minds, and recently some younger fellows came out to join us. Though we have tried to resist putting form or function to this thing, it has taken on a life of its own. Sometimes we can't make it out, but the others gather anyway, and bang out tunes. Each week is a little different. And so are we.

The point here is, GBFS puts on a marvelous festival every summer, and we're damn proud of it. But we're also about grass roots, and though we'll never get to grace the stages of Summerfolk, our Thursday night jam has given us a purpose for playing.

The little courtroom has been our catalyst. We come out with few expectations, and always exceed them.

Music is about more than listening, it's about participating. On Thursday night, it makes no difference the quality of the performance, it's about the experience. Music crosses all borders and ages and backgrounds.

I'm glad we got our jam together, even if it has taken almost twenty years. And as for the fun, we've got a great gang this year to make sure the festival goes off without a hitch, and we have a darned good time doing it to boot.

Sometimes history does repeat itself, and I'm glad to be a part of it this time.

The folk music movement is all about real music for real people, and we've done that in spades this year.

Why not drag your old instrument out now, and call up a friend or two and get your own jam going somewhere?

Till next time, cheers.
Pete

The Georgian Bay Folk Society is pleased to be a Core Partner with the City of Owen Sound in their successful bid to be designated as a Cultural Capital of Canada for the year 2004. The sample project put forward by the GBFS is Youth oriented and fits well with the increasing diversity of programming that we have been developing over the last couple of years beyond our beloved festival Summerfolk.

The following information is presented to provide an overview of this project, our visions, our passions, our commitments, and our belief that investing in cultural activities with young people today will ensure our community maintains its identity as a Cultural Capital for years to come.

The Vision:

A small group of young individuals showing a passion for their developing talent in writing and performing music will be selected from a call for entries to participate by the committee overseeing the project.

The theme of the project is “People and the Land”, as outlined in the original application to Heritage Canada.

A qualified mentor to coordinate the day-to-day activities, arrange for the services of professional tutors, manage the account, and to document the progress, will be retained by the committee.

During the course of honing song writing, performance, and self-promotion skills, the participants will be exposed to a variety of professionals brought in to share their particular expertise. The intent is to get the creative juices flowing enough to produce two or three new original compositions from each participant.

The collection of new material will be rehearsed, possibly with some backing musicians, and finally recorded to CD at a Professional Recording Studio.

The Passion:

Part of the program of activity is to take in some of the natural beauty our community enjoys. Outings to various area landscapes and outdoor events with time to sit, think, and enjoy letting the inspirations become words and music.

An invitation to a local area landscape artist will be made to accompany the group on such outings and will hopefully garner the cover art for the CD.

The conclusion of the project will be a celebration. The community will be invited to a concert presentation, the release of the CD “The People and the Land”.

The Commitment:

The Georgian Bay Folk Society has given itself a strong mandate to present and promote music and art from “the folks”. In 2005 we will celebrate our 30th annual Summerfolk festival.

Each year we send delegates to related conferences to share our experiences, learn from others, and showcase our area. “The People and the Land” project will make a wonderful presentation to promote our community.

We firmly believe the “seeds” we are planting now will ensure a 40th and 50th Summerfolk as well as other great cultural events.