



NEWFIE BULLET -IN

MARCH 2007

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEWFIE TRIO	MA MILLERS PUB	Saturday, March 10th
NEWFIE TRIO	A&N Vets, Sidney	Friday, March 16th
NEWFIE TRIO	TUDOR HOUSE	Saturday, March 17 th
MEETING /PUB NITE	GUN ROOM	Saturday, March 24 th
BEER AND SKITS (Dance by TMB)	LANGFORD LEGION	Saturday, April 14 th
TOM MORRISSEY BAND	IRISH TIMES PUB	April 2,3,4 and May 7,8,9.
OLD COUNTRY	A&N VETS, Sidney	Friday, May 4th
MEETING/PUB NITE	GUN ROOM	Saturday, May 5 th
TOM MORRISSEY BAND	BLEUE COYOTE	Saturday, May 26 th
NEWFIE TRIO	MA MILLERS PUB	Saturday, May 26 th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As always, it is indeed a pleasure for me to bring Greetings to each of you on behalf of your Executive. It may appear as if we have not had a lot of discussions at our meetings, simply because that is the indication that you gave this Executive at our first meeting, in as much as you wanted to leave the day to day operations in our hands. We have been busy nonetheless and we want to request that one and all make an extra effort to get to the next meeting on **March 24th**. We will have a number of items on the agenda that you should be part of the decisions and it would be appreciated if you were in attendance to have your input. We would also like to remind the **Dart Group** and the **Nfld Dancers** that your membership extends beyond participation in these areas and we would like to

encourage your attendance at Club meetings and Pub nights.

Personally, I must say that it was enjoyable to be able to take in the Dart evening and the Nfld Dancers evening and I encourage others to do likewise. We do have the Jiggs Dinner functions for the Nfld Dancers group coming up on the 17th and 31st of March at the Eagles Club, and of course, the Pub Night on March 24th and as well the Beer and Skits on April 14th so all in all, our schedule is full. **Barb Budgell** appears to have things organized and your support and participation would be appreciated.

I am also requesting each recipient of this newsletter, who has access to email, to take the time to resend your email address to our club mail box: NfldClubOfVictoria@Topmail.ca We are attempting to build a complete new data base and we

want to be assured that your address is included. Your reply would be appreciated. Again Thanks on behalf of all Executive members and we look forward to seeing you at these upcoming functions.

Wayne Thomas

GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

Our Goodwill Ambassador is **Dorothy Carter**. If you know someone who has had a death in the family, who is ill (in hospital 24 hours or more), has had a baby, etc., please inform Dorothy Carter at 388-9964.

DART LEAGUE

Our season is starting to wind down now, but new players are still welcome. Please Contact **Todd Strickland**, 217-9611, **Chris Roberts**, 477-4756, **Wade Hatch**, 391-4516 or you can just show up at The Langford Legion Wednesday nights (start time is 7:30 and we are usually done by 9:30).

PUB NITE PAST

We had our last Membership Meeting and Pub Nite on January 20th. President **Wayne Thomas** promised us shorter meetings, and he is delivering the goods! Man! That had to be the shortest meeting I've ever attended – and no one was complaining about that! We were able to get the Pub Nite rolling in very short order after the meeting. And what a Pub Nite it was. **Tom Morrissey** was our host musician and he rocked our socks off once again. How can one guy put out so much energy and sound? The only problem with Tom Morrissey is that he is a pretty hard act to follow. Who wants to try to pick up where Tom leaves off? But, gracious as he is, Tom makes room for the rest of us to show

our stuff, and quite a few did just that. **Herb and Hal** popped in after an afternoon gig and played a few tunes for us. **Se O'Connor** sang a couple of numbers *a cappella* for us, as did **Camillus McLaverty**. We also heard the quirky Celtic sounds of **Cookeilidh**, who did a few tunes. And everyone was surprised and delighted to see our old friend **Robert Cluett**, who was down in this area of the Island at the time of the Pub Nite. Robert played a few blistering tunes on his “cordeen” much to everyone’s delight. It was a fine night all round.

NEXT MEETING AND PUB NITE

Our next **Membership Meeting and Pub Nite** is Saturday, March 24th at the ever lovely and popular Gun Room. Meeting at 7:30 and pub nite to follow at 8:30. See you there!

CLUB CLOTHING

For club clothing items, please call **Peg Wilson**, 595-7062. And please note that prices on *all* items have been reduced.

JIGGS DINNERS!

As Wayne mentioned, we have two (2) Jiggs Dinners scheduled for March. March 17th is sold out, but there are a very few tickets left for March 31st. Call Wayne Thomas 220-1401. The Traditional Dance group would like to thank **Wayne Thomas**, and **Bob and Barb Budgell** for doing so much to make these evenings happen. And also thanks to **Cookeilidh** for offering to do the entertainment. And thanks to the **Eagles Club** for the use of their very fine venue. We are anticipating two wonderful evenings.

BEER AND SKITS NIGHT

The **Annual Beer and Skits Night** will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2007, at the **Langford Legion** with doors open at 6 P.M. This promises to be a **SOLD OUT** event, and tickets are on a first come/first served basis, so please purchase your tickets as soon as possible. Call **Wayne Thomas** at 220-1401. Please note that there will be **no food service** in the hall during the show. The Deadline for submitting skits or musical numbers is March 15th. Call **Barb Budgell**, 727-9881. The next Skit meeting is set for March 11th at the Budgell's place on Misty Way. Also note that help is required for skit nite setup on Friday April 13th from noon on and for tear down on Sunday, April 15th in the AM. Call **George Giles** if you can help on either or both days. 592-7502, 893-7502

And another note. There will be videos, and DVD's available of the performance as in other years, and there are still a few copies of 2005 and 2006 left if you wanted to complete your archives.

MUSIC NOTES



Old Country is at the **Army and Navy Vets** in Sidney on Friday, May 4th. Call **Garry Hogan**, 655-1396 if you need information or to order your *Old Country* cd.

The Newfie Trio is at **Ma Millers Pub** on March 10th, and at the **Army and Navy Vets** in Sidney on Friday, March 16th. Then they do the big bash at the **Tudor House** on St. Paddy's Day, March 17th. What a hard working pair! Why not get out to hear them on one of these nights?

The Tom Morrissey Band is also very busy. Dates for the **Irish Times Pub** are

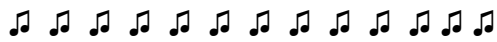
April 2,3,4 and May 7,8,9. Plus a gig at the **Bleue Coyote** on May 26th. And to everyone's delight, TMB will be the band for the Beer and Skit Night dance! Whooppee! And the other exciting news is that the cd that I have been jabbering about for so long will be ready for July 1st. The cd is entitled: *Island Man*. Release venue to be announced. I gotta say, I'm pumped about this cd!

And don't forget that **John Hollohan** has 2 cd's for sale. Call John at 658-1928 to order yours.

Dermot O'Reilly passed away recently. Here's a small excerpt from the Telegram: O'Reilly - musician, producer, songwriter, pioneer, mentor and one-third of the group Ryan's Fancy - died Feb. 17. He was 64. A native of Ireland who had called Newfoundland home since the late 1960s, O'Reilly made a tremendous contribution to Newfoundland and Labrador music over many decades and helped lay the groundwork for other bands to follow. "He helped resurrect the traditional scene. Ryan's Fancy re-invented the Celtic-Irish cultural scene," Denis Parker, Music Newfoundland and Labrador executive director, said of his friend. "Their music was the real deal, wasn't it? They raised the standard for all others to follow."

Anyone who spent any time in St. John's, and particularly on George Street, would sooner or later have run into Dermot. I think I chatted with him every time I went to George Street. He just seemed to be everywhere. I remember Dermot and Fergus O'Byrne playing their hearts out one night in Erin's Pub. There was free music on the street that night, so the crowds were small inside the pubs. Nevertheless the boys played their hearts out for about 6 of us. That's class. Dermot always had a friendly

word for anyone who wanted to chat, and he even suggested that I keep in contact with him by email when I returned to Victoria. One occasion he was sitting at a table just across from us, having his supper at Bridie Malloys. I took a candid photo, then felt compelled to ask him if I could keep it. "As long as it doesn't break your camera, you can have it if you want it," said he. Our last night in St John's on our last trip was spent early into the morning at O'Reilly's, listening to Fergus and Dermot. Wonderful memories of a wonderful man.



NEWFOUNDLAND DANCING

So what comes to mind when someone mentions Newfoundland Dancing? I bet you think of a rag-tag circle of people, most likely inebriated on Screech, holding hands and stumbling around to the left or the right and occasionally doing the old elbow swing thing with other people at random in the circle. How could, or why would, anyone do that all night long? Precisely. That's just what Newfoundland dancing is *not*. What we mean by Traditional Newfoundland dancing, and what we actually do, is the old traditional square sets that were done by outport folk for centuries. The dances clearly originated in Europe, but took on their own special forms in the different areas where they were done in Newfoundland. For instance, the dance that is most often referred to as *The Square Dance*. This is a set dance that can be done in square of 8, 12, or 16 people (as in most other things, Newfoundlanders are very accommodating). We dance four or five different variations of this dance, depending on what area they come from. The set dance can go on for half the night because there are 5 or 6 "figures" to the dance with a short break between figures. Similarly

the dance called *The Lancers*, which originated in France I believe, is done in a set formation and also has a number of figures involved. Then there is the dance known as *Running The Goat*. Originally of Basque origin, it is thought that this dance was first done in Newfoundland in Great Harbour Deep in White Bay. Again, it is a set dance, but almost always a set of 4 couples. It too has a number of figures, but they were danced with no breaks or stops. The dance, if all the repeated chorus portions are done, can take about 25 minutes to complete. Not too much you think? Well consider that the dance is done to Newfoundland Single Jigs, which run at a speed of 160 beats per minute. It's a good workout to say the least. Traditional dancing very nearly died out in Newfoundland. It became old fashioned and un-cool with the advent of juke box music and social dances such as the jive. However, there is a growing interest in cultural history, particularly in music, and this bodes well for traditional dancing. There are small groups that keep the traditions alive. Ours is one of these groups, even though we are quite far removed physically from our beloved Newfoundland. There have been many times over the years that I have despaired of the future of the dance, and even wondered why I bothered to try to keep the dance alive. But one day I watched a DVD on the Irish group, the **Chieftains**. They did segments on the respective hometowns of the band members. Paddy Maloney, the leader of the group, was showing the old farm cottage that he grew up in. He talked about the great hoolies they used to have in that house. And the dancing that went on there. At this point they showed some old footage of couples dancing in a kitchen. Whether it was genuine old footage, or made to look old, I do not know. But the room was so small that only 2 couples could dance at once. The moves they were doing were

quite familiar to me. They were doing the *cross over* and *couple swing* exactly as we do in our traditional square set. To me, this was immensely thrilling, because it proved to me that we are connected to the past by the form of the dance. There is a thread that connects our little group here in Victoria, to the kitchens of the outports of Newfoundland, and on across the ocean to the kitchen hoolies, in Ireland. And that's why I think it is worthwhile, and that's one of the reasons why we carry on with our little group. Why not come and check it out? Call Woody, 595-7062.

R.U. ON LINE?

Would you like your newsletter sent by email instead of Canada Post? It saves a stamp and the cost of printing if you do. Let me know if you want email letters. wpwilson@shaw.ca. Also, I can pass your email address along to the phone committee and you can be notified of upcoming club events through cyberspace if you wish. Saves someone calling you on the phone.

JUST FOR FUN



I was talking to my cousin in the prairies the other day. Well into his 70's, he says he still does a bit of farming on the old family farm that has been in the family since about 1915. I asked him if he had a lot of money invested in machinery. "Nah, it's all old stuff now and not worth much. But I did buy a new tractor yesterday. It has no seat and no steering wheel. It's for the farmer who has lost his ass and doesn't know which way to turn." Sounds like my cousin, all right.

OLD FRED

Old Fred had been a faithful Christian and was in the hospital, near death. The family called their preacher to stand with them. As the preacher stood next to the bed, Old Fred's condition appeared to deteriorate and he motioned frantically for something to write on. The pastor lovingly handed him a pen and a piece of paper, and Old Fred used his last bit of energy to scribble a note, then suddenly died. The preacher thought it best not to look at the note at that time, so he placed it in his jacket pocket. At the funeral, as he was finishing the message, he realized that he was wearing the same jacket that he was wearing when Old Fred died. He said, "You know, Old Fred handed me a note just before he died. I haven't looked at it, but knowing Fred, I'm sure there's a word of inspiration here for us all." He opened the note, and read, "Please step to your left - you're standing on my oxygen tube!"



So Garge and Tom are walking down the sidewalk downtown and they see a sign in the window of the forest company's office. It read: **TREE FELLERS NEEDED.** Garge shook his head and said to Tom, "Ain't that about our luck, my son? If Eddie had been here with us, we could have all had a job!"



HEARING AID

An older gentleman went to the audiologist and was fitted for a set of near invisible hearing aids. They worked perfectly, in fact his hearing was restored to very close to 100%. After a month with the hearing aids he went back to his audiologist for a check up. The audiologist was pleased with the results and said, "Your hearing is almost 100%. Your family must be so

pleased with the results.” “Oh,” the old fellow replied, “I haven’t told them yet. I just sit around listening in on all the conversations. I changed my will three times already!”



NEWBORN BABY

Two old fellows are sitting on a bench under a tree at the old folks home. “Damn it, Ed,” says Bill, “I feel so old. Everything aches and hurts. And I’m only 85. You are over 90, how do you feel?” Bill replied, “Well Ed, I gotta say, I feel just like a newborn baby.” “Really? How do you mean?” asked Ed. “Well, I’m bald, I got no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.”



THE NEWFIE’S NEW CAR

Everyone knows how almost every Newfoundlander in the world always talks about home. There is that famous quote from John Crosbie that you will always be able to tell the Newfoundlanders in Heaven; they’ll be the ones who want to go “home”. Well, Garge the Newfoundlander living in Victoria wanted to go home. He went to the Chrysler dealership and said he wanted a car that would take him back to Newfoundland. “No problem,” said the salesman, “we have lots of cars that will do the job for you. How much do you have to spend?” “Tree hunnerd bucks,” said Garge. The salesman politely said he would never get a car for that price that would get him to Newfoundland. Garge went to the Ford dealership. It was the same story. Then the GM dealership, and, of course, the same story. Finally Garge goes to one of the sort of wholesale lots on the Colwood strip. “Ya, sure, we got cars that will get you to Newfoundland,” said the eager salesman,

“how much ya got?” “Tree hunnerd bucks.” This time, however, the salesman did not send Garge away. He said he likely had a car that would do the job, for only \$300. “Ain’t much too look at, mind you, but she’s reliable enough to get you to Newfoundland,” he told Garge. “Only problem with this beauty, she’s a manual shift. Four on the floor. But there’s no reverse gear.” “Oh, heck,” chipped in Garge, “dat ain’t no problem, bye. I ain’t plannin on comin back!”



FAMOUS INSULTS

(from an email sent to me – I haven’t checked them out for sure)

“I’ve never killed a man, but I’ve read many obituaries with great pleasure.”
Clarence Darrow.

“A modest little person with much to be modest about.” Winston Churchill

“Thank you for sending me a copy of your book. I’ll waste no time in reading it.”
Moses Hadas

“He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know.”
Abraham Lincoln.

“I didn’t attend the funeral. But I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it.” Mark Twain.

“I’ve had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn’t it.” Groucho Marx

“Some cause happiness where ever they go; some whenever they go.” Oscar Wilde.

“He loves nature, in spite of what it did to him” Forrest Tucker.

“He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.” Oscar Wilde

“He has delusions of adequacy.” Walter Kerr.

“I’m enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play. Bring a friend, if you have one.” George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill.

“Cannot possible attend first night. Will attend second, if there is one.” Winston Churchill’s reply to above.



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