

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

*Bringing people together for the preservation, enjoyment
and advancement of bluegrass and related acoustic music.*

Message From the VBA Board

*"November is here
and the temperature's droppin'
In a few more weeks,
we'll be Christmas shoppin'
Forecasters sayin',
winter could be rough
Sure hope we don't freeze our
Bluegrasses off"*

Well, it's not Bill Monroe, but maybe there's still a bluegrass song in there somewhere.

This is the time of year that we shift our music jamming indoors and sit around a warm wood stove or register, practicing those lyrics, and learning those new licks. And speaking of getting comfortable, last month's entertainment with feature act Viper Central, along with a great open stage, had our cockles all warmed up with great vocal harmonies, and a selection of songs that went straight to the heart (and to those tapping toes). For those that missed the show, check out Viper Central's new gospel album, *Live at Street Church*. This month's feature act will be the dynamic duo of **Cluny Macpherson and Garrett Thomson**, (also known in their very early years as the 'Terrible Twos'), doing a tribute to the music of Ricky Skaggs and Tony Rice – not to be missed!

Thanks to Nick Hornbuckle for a very useful and enjoyable banjo workshop. There are no workshops this month, but start thinking about our **Annual Potluck Jam and Band Scramble on December 14**, and maybe 'bluegrassifying' that seasonal tune that will be going through your



**Tony Rice and Ricky Skaggs Tribute featuring
Cluny Macpherson and Garrett Thomson**

head soon. This is always a really fun evening, with food donations and collections going to the Mustard Seed. We'll have more info on this next month.

The turnout has been good at the weekly jam circles at the Orange Hall, so if you haven't had a chance to make it out to these yet, give it a try one of these Tuesday nights. One of our members took the time to write and express appreciation for the moderated circle jams, and what a difference it made to her playing. It's a great environment for players of all levels to learn and enjoy themselves, since bluegrass 'jamming' is what it's all about. If you haven't seen the little video clip of local favourites **"Flash In The Pan"** talking about 'Being in the Pocket' with bluegrass music, check out this link and get inspired to feel good about your playing:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bf-tWTm_SA

"Keep on the Sunny Side!"

- The VBA Board of Directors

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Victoria Bluegrass Association
c/o Old Town Strings Repair Shop
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VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

VBA Board of Directors 2010/2011

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Al Planiden
president@victoriabluegrass.ca

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Vice President

Victoria Pang
vice_president@victoriabluegrass.ca

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Member at Large

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Member at Large

Cluny Macpherson

Newsletter Editor

Scott Campbell

Newsletter Design/Layout

Katherine Dennison

Website Orchestrator

Wendy Anthony

VBA Membership

\$ 25 single

\$ 40 couple

VBA Tuesday Night Bluegrass Jams

November 2, 9, 16, 23 @ 7:30 PM

Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road

Slow Pitch, Moderated Circle and Festival Bluegrass Jams. Players of all levels welcome. Players \$2 members; \$3 non-members; listeners by donation.

Contact Al Planiden, president@victoriabluegrass.ca



Open Stage Feature Night - Cluny Macpherson and Garrett Thomson

November 30 @ 7:30 PM, Orange Hall

Admission \$5 for members, \$7 non-members

7:45 - 8:45 Open Stage*

9:00 - 10:00 Cluny Macpherson and Garrett Thomson Tribute to Scaggs and Rice

It all started one fateful night in June of 2009. The setting: The Sooke River Bluegrass festival. What started as an eclectic jam between friends turned into an all out tribute to the monumental album known simply as Skaggs and Rice. The boys had drawn a pretty good crowd when it was all said and done. On November 30th at the Orange Hall, Cluny Macpherson of Flash in the Pan and VBA Bursary recipient Garrett Thomson are doing it all over again. For this performance, however, they've added some rehearsals and left out some libations. Be sure not to miss these boys pay tribute to their heroes with their guitar, mandolin and harmony vocal styling's. It's sure to be another night to remember.

*To sign up for the Open Stage, contact Jeb Gordon _____

Your Admission is FREE

Remembering Joe Anderson



The VBA lost a dear friend on October 23rd, with the passing of 'Fiddler' Joe Anderson. Joe was a real gentleman, and a long time supporter of the VBA, participating in many slow pitch jams and open stages at the Orange Hall. He was also a regular at the Sunday afternoon bluegrass jams at the Sooke Legion and his enthusiastic playing and wonderful smile will be missed by all.

Don't Miss Out! Get One (or more) Before They're Gone!

LIMITED EDITION VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION T-SHIRTS



Show you're a proud sponsor of the Victoria Bluegrass Association with these great looking 100% cotton Ts.

Ideal for pickin', grinnin' or just knockin' about.

AVAILABLE SIZES (WHILE QUANTITIES LAST)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Black (Men's sizes) | Green (Women's Sizes) |
| • Small | • Small |
| • Medium | • Medium |
| • Large | • Large |
| • X-Large | • X-Large |

REGULAR PRICE: \$25
VBA MEMBER DISCOUNTED PRICE: \$20

Also For Sale:

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION STICKERS

PRICE: \$1 EACH, 3 FOR \$2

Stickers and Shirts

The holiday gift-giving season is fast approaching and wouldn't you and your loved ones want one of these stylish VBA t-shirts?

Women's gold on green

Men's blue on black

VBA members \$20.00 (plus shipping if needed) or \$25 for non-members.

We also have VBA stickers, 3 for \$2.

E-mail vice_president@victoriabluegrass.ca or come see us at the Orange Hall on a Tuesday night!

Letter from Band Camp

One of this year's bursary winners, Colin Boland, shares his Sorrento experience:

"The sun is rising on Friday morning, the birds start chirping, and people start stirring around their campers and tents. In a cook shelter there is still a small group of people picking tunes. There is a bearded mandolin player, a very tired and raspy voiced guitar player, a fiddle player in a cow costume... the floor is covered with evidence of a good night spent with good friends playing good tunes. They jammed so late they almost missed breakfast.

Sorrento was a week of string band paradise where you can pick up an instrument and walk around to any number of jams. I had a few dreams about Sorrento the week after I got back. After waking up from one of them, my hand was gripping a guitar pick. I learned so much in my week there and more than anything, I learned how to learn. Also all the friends old and new, really made the whole experience something I will never forget. The student concerts, the happy hours, the late night jams, and even acupuncture... you never know what will happen at Sorrento.

I would like to thank the VBA for selecting me to go this summer. It was an amazing experience and will reap the benefits of the instruction for years to come. I recommend that everyone in the bluegrass community try to make it to Sorrento at least once. It was a truly unforgettable experience. Thanks again VBA!"

If you are 25 or younger, a current member of the VBA, have never been to the BCBW, and would like to improve on your instrument(s), spend a week on a property with 150 people learning, playing, jamming, swimming...then we encourage you to apply for the VBA's 2010 Scholarship. You can write to the Board of the VBA, or send an email directly to the president@victoriabluegrass.ca, explaining why you feel you should be selected as a recipient. Applications are accepted up to December 31/10, and awarded in January, in time for a February registration to the workshop.

Bluegrass Happenings

In British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest
(all events in Victoria BC, unless otherwise indicated)

Ongoing

- Sundays** **Bluegrass Night** at *Spinnaker's Pub*, 308 Catherine St., 8:00-10:30 pm. James Whittall, Oliver Swain, Alan Law and Mike Kraft perform live.
- Sunday Afternoon Hootennany** at *Logan's Tavern*, 1821 Cook St., 4 pm
Hosted by Carolyn Mark. Free admission. More info: 250-360-1832
- Open Mic** at the *Cobblestone Pub*, 2566 Holland Ave., Cobble Hill. Swing-style Western, bluegrass, and old western; an acoustic friendly open mic/jam. For time and info: 250-743-4232
- Bluegrass Sunday** at *Ocean Island Backpackers Inn*, 791 Pandora Ave., 8 pm-12 am. Hosted by Doosie and Decker. Bring an instrument along and be part of the fun!
- Mondays** **Old-Time String Music Jam** at *Spiral Cafe*, 418 Craigflower Rd., 7-9:30 pm
More info: www.myspace.com/thespiraloldtimegroove
- Tuesdays** **VBA Bluegrass Jam** at the *Orange Hall*, 1620 Fernwood Rd., 7:30-10 pm
Slow Pitch, Intermediate & Advanced Circle Jams. Players of all levels welcome. Admission: players \$2 (non-members \$3), listeners free. More info: Al Planiden, apache@shaw.ca
- The Sweet Lowdown** at *The Fernwood Inn*, 302 Gladstone Ave., 9-11 pm.
More info: www.myspace.com/the.sweet.lowdown
- Wednesdays** **Cornerstone Bluegrass Jam** at Cornerstone Cafe & Resource Centre, Fernwood at Gladstone. Featuring premier acoustic string band musicians. Enjoy some hot coffee or chocolate while listening [for free] to local top acoustic roots musicians jam it out with each other, organized by the Fernwood Bluegrass Coalition [FBC], a group of local business/promoters/musicians.

Other Happenings

- Wed. Nov 3** **The Big Machine Trio (Oliver Swain, James Whittall, Quinn Bacchand)**, 8pm – 10:30pm at Hermann's Jazz Club, 753 View. With guests Flash in the Pan Quartet, Tickets \$8.00. Info: ollieswain@yahoo.com
- Sat. Nov 6** **Shearwater** 8pm at Fairfield United Church, 1303 Fairfield Road. Call (250) 893-1508 for info.
www.shearwaterband.com
- Thurs. Nov 11** **The Big Machine Trio**, 8pm at the Duncan Garage Showroom, Duncan. \$12 adv., \$15 at the door.
- Fri. Nov 12** **The Big Machine Trio**, 8pm at Oak Bay United Church, 1369 Mitchell St., \$12 adv. at Lyle's, \$15 door.
- Sat. Nov 13** **Bowker Creek** 8pm at the Duncan Garage Showroom, 330 Duncan Street, Duncan. Doors at 7:30 pm, \$15 at door; \$12 in advance. <http://www.duncangarageshowroom.ca/sched.html> 250-748-7246
- Sat. Nov 20** **Clover Point Drifters CD Release** The Clover Point Drifters unveil their new CD at Oak Bay United Church 1355 Mitchell Oak Bay. 8 pm Tickets \$10
- Thurs. Dec 2** **The Breakmen CD Release** The Breakmen debut their new CD "Heartwood" at St. Andrew's Church (Douglas/ Broughton), Doors 7:30, Show 8:00 - all ages. Adv tix at Long & McQuade, Lyle's Place and Larsen Music. \$15 Advanced (and students)/\$20 door. Special guests: Jason and Pharis Romero, The Shadywood Boys & Flash in the Pan. www.thebreakmen.com
- Sat. Jan 29** **Snowgrass** at the Port Angeles High School Auditorium, Port Angeles, WA, First Step Family Support Center (www.firststepfamily.org), a United Way agency, is excited to announce SNOWGRASS 2011. Tickets \$10 Adults, \$7 Seniors, free for children 10 & under.