

LES NORTHCOTTE



Les Northcotte grew up listening to the traditional music of Newfoundland, but began his musical career as a member of "The Flaming Five", one of Ramea Island's first rock & roll bands.

Since 1970, the year he and his brother Fred founded The Bay Boys, he has been the group's vocalist and rhythm guitar player, except for a few years when he filled in on bass guitar.

Although Les was considered to be a fine rock 'n' roller, he was without a doubt destined to become a singer of his ancestor's music. His voice and vocal style seemed to be especially created for singing the traditional songs of Newfoundland.

His soulful renditions and heart-felt singing have brought both joy and tears not only to displaced Newfoundlanders and Maritimers, but to all lovers of Celtic music, regardless of their background. Les' Rhythm guitar perfectly complements Fred's accordion playing and the repartee between them on stage has delighted audiences for over twenty years.

Les still resides in St. Catharines, Ontario with his two children and wife of 12 years, Flossie.

Our next issue will feature the rest of The Bay Boys, Howard, Gary and Vic as well as other band members from the past.

FRED NORTHCOTTE



Although Fred Northcotte's brother Les takes care of the vocal duties for The Bay Boys, Fred is the unmistakable frontman of the group. Not only does he project The Bay Boys "signature sound" through his unique style of playing the button accordion simultaneously with the harmonica, he expertly works an audience with a rapport that is filled with humour and wit.

With his weathered face, neatly trimmed beard and many years spent sailing the seven seas, this charismatic "salty dog" epitomises the Maritime and Newfoundland persona, a persona equally reflected in his music. To know this man who has been married to Barbara for 29 years and raised 3 kids, the same jolly character who on stage brings us so much pleasure, has a son who is in Bosnia on behalf of our country defending what we take for granted in a very hostile environment, recently found out that his wife Barbara has cancer and attends treatment every Friday in Hamilton, you can't help but admire the Northcotte family as they go through these very trying times and our hearts go out to all of them.

Fred was born in the tiny outpost of Coppette, Nfld. As a youth he moved with his family to Ramea Island. Eventually he settled in St. Catharines, Ontario, during the late sixties where he was joined by his brother Les.

Fred's demand as a top fiddle musician speaks for itself - he has performed with the who's who of East Coast music; including Harry Hibbs, Dick Nolan, John Allan Cameron, Roy Payne and the late Al Churney. Over the years he has recorded three albums with seven time, North American fiddle champion, Graham Townsend.

Fred's greatest thrill as a musician unfolded when he was invited by the legendary Stompin' Tom Connors to participate on his "Dr. Stompin Tom...Er?" album in the summer of 1993.

Fred has also played and recorded with three time Grammy award winner Walter Ostanek, and regularly appears on his "Polka Time" television show on CKOC (Kitchener). Together they host the popular "Down Home Country" Radio Show on CHOW-1470 am, Welland, Ontario, every Sunday afternoon at 4:30 p.m.

The Bay Boys Up Close

In Aug. 1970, brothers Fred and Les Northcotte made the move to put a band together that would feature good old down-east foot stomping accordion and fiddle music, some sentimental and humorous songs about back home with a few good jokes, are now celebrating their 25th anniversary, and have entertained thousands of people in Southern Ontario with their traditional Maritime and Newfoundland sound. They toured twice their native Newfoundland as well.

Part of their popularity is in their ability to be able to include in their show the likes of three time Grammy winner Walter Ostanek, and such notable fiddle players as Steve Perry (Tignish, P.E.I.), Scott Woods and very good

friend Graham Townsend and from time to time Fred will invite fellow musicians from the audience, such as Jim Martin, John Prince, etc. to give us that special variety of down-east music and hospitality. Although the fiddle players and Walter Ostanek are not part of The Bay Boys regular shows, they can be made available upon special request.

I have personally seen The Bay Boys perform on many occasions in the past year and each time it still amazes me how the dance floor gets packed when they strike up one of our down home favourite songs, and if you have not been to a good old down east dance in some time, I invite you to take in one of these dances and you will be for a special treat imported from the East Coast.

EAST COAST SOCIAL CLUB DANCES WITH THE BAY BOYS - 1995 LINE-UP

Saturday, May 6, 1995

Brampton Moose Lodge, 70 Advance Blvd (at Steeles & Dixie) 905-791-9488 (only 150 seats)

Friday, May 12, 1995

St. Leo's Hall, 256 Royal York Road (below Evans Ave) Etobicoke, Ontario

Saturday, May 20, 1995

Oakridge Legion, 2 Robinson Ave, Scarborough, Ont.

Saturday, August 19, 1995

Army & Navy Air Force Club, 765 Third St, Mississauga, Ont. (at Lakeshore & Cawthra)

This dance will be a benefit to raise money for five year old Ryan Holloway and also to celebrate The Bay Boys 25th Anniversary.

Saturday, September 23, 1995

Oakridge Legion, 2 Robinson Ave, Scarborough, Ont.

Friday, October 6, 1995

St. Leo's Hall, 256 Royal York Road (below Evans Ave) Etobicoke, Ont.

Saturday, October 28, 1995

Army & Navy Air Force Club, 765 Third St, Mississauga, Ont. (at Lakeshore & Cawthra)

Saturday, Nov. 18, 1995

Oakridge Legion, 2 Robinson Ave, Scarb. Ont

Friday, November 25, 1995

St. Leo's Hall, 256 Royal York Road, (below Evans Ave) Etobicoke, Ont.

Saturday, December 9, 1995

Army & Navy Air Force Club, 765 Third St, Mississauga, Ont. 905-274-9981

Tickets can be picked up at the following locations:

Parrott's Nfld Grocery, 40 Commonwealth Ave, Scarb. Ont	416-261-7420
Country Music Store, 2889 Danforth Ave, Toronto, Ont.	416-690-5564
Island Delights, 2375 Steeles Ave West, Unit #51, North York	416-661-9971
The Newfie Store, 31 Melanie Drive, Brampton, Ont.	905-790-6353
East Coast Social Club, Etobicoke, Ont.	416-252-3430

Members can reserve tickets for pick up at the door by calling the East Coast Social Club in advance. All tickets sold on first come, first serve basis. Whenever possible, East Coast food will be available at the dances. If you require any information on price and what food will be available, please contact Parrott's Nfld Grocery. Don't forget to reserve your tickets early.

PLAN EARLY FOR YOUR NEW YEARS EVE PARTY!!!!

Phone the East Coast Social Club for details.