

A DOWN HOME FESTIVAL

Come Celebrate with a gathering of musicians and performers honoring

FREDDIE NORTHCOTTE

Of the Bay Boys



Saturday June 23
1:00pm
Port Dalhousie Pier
Marina
Featuring The Bay Boys and
Various Artists
All proceeds to
Niagara's Rankin Cancer Run

Freddie Northcotte holds legendary status in Port Dalhousie. How many professional musicians still playing in the same band can claim to have started out at the 'Austin Hotel'? The Austin was the original name for the Lakeside Hotel (My Cottage today) and Freddie's band, The Bay Boys played their first gig there in 1970.

Equally well known as a sailor, racing his J-30, "North Caught" on Wednesday nights, he has been a familiar sight flying his chute while sailing up the harbour as far as the Port Dalhousie Legion where he is a member.

Born in Coppett, Newfoundland in 1938, the oldest of ten, he began working on Lakers in 1957 before joining Port Weller Dry Docks in Port Dalhousie (formerly Muir Dry Docks) in 1967 where he stayed to work on the very last ship serviced there. In 1967 he also married Barb and they raised three children, Stacy, Glen and Eileen. In 1977 he went to work for GM where he stayed until his retirement in 2002.

During all those years, he was a popular and well respected musician and remains so to this day. Freddie's career began at age 14 when he took up the accordion and harmonica. His first band was Alfie and the Pearlies formed with his brother Les, and their first gig was at The Castle, St. Catharines legendary performance venue during the 60s.

In 2004, Freddie married his present wife Wendy but it was also a year of sadness when they discovered he had cancer. Surgery, radiation and chemotherapy was to follow and, through it all, friends and family stood by him. Some of his best friends are the musicians who are his peers and to show their respect and honour his contribution to music and entertainment in Niagara, they have organized a Down Home Festival to be held on Saturday, June 23rd at the Port Dalhousie Pier Marina which is sponsoring the event.

Freddie regularly donates a portion of his 'playing money' to the Rankin Cancer Run and all proceeds from the festival will be donated to this Niagara Charity.

The public is invited and it's free. Freddie is ready to provide them with authentic down home foot-stompin' music and his friends will be there to help him. Don't miss out! □

COME CELEBRATE

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A gathering of musicians and performers honoring

FREDDIE NORTHCOTTE of The Bay Boys

Featuring
 The Bay Boys
 & Various
 Artists



BBQ
JUNE 23, 2007

At the Port Dalhousie Pier Marina
80 Lighthouse Rd, St. Catharines



All donations and proceeds for
 the Rankin Cancer Run

Sponsored by Port Dalhousie Pier Marina



Fred Northcotte (centre), seen here playing with The Bay Boys, will be honoured at next week's Down Home Festival at the Port Dalhousie Marina.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

THE BAY BOYS' FRED NORTHCOTTE FOCUS OF DOWN HOME FESTIVAL

BY MIKE ZETTEL
 STAFF

ST. CATHARINES — After learning his wife and friends were planning on a big concert to be held in his honour, Freddie Northcotte was a little reluctant about having people make such a big deal about him.

But he agreed on one condition: that the concert which features his band, The Bay Boys, along with numerous other Maritime-themed musicians, would also be a fundraiser for the Rankin Cancer Run.

In 2004, the same year he married Wendy, Northcotte was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. He had surgery, radiation treatment in Hamilton and chemotherapy in St. Catharines to treat it, only to have a recurrence last fall, when doctors found it had spread to part of his kidney.

"They're keeping a very close eye on that," said Wendy.

Through the ordeal, Northcotte said he's been lucky and grateful for all the support and care he received.

"I could never pay the people back who looked after me," he said.

And now, he'd like to help others in need, he said.

"I've seen a lot in the last two and a half years," he said. "Going to Hamilton for radiation, you see a lot of people."

When I go uptown for chemo, it's the same thing."

Northcotte, who retired from GM in 2002, is a well-known musician in Port Dalhousie, and has played with The Bay Boys since 1970. He is also known in sailing circles and is a long-time member of the Port Dalhousie Yacht Club.

He still plays with The Bay Boys, though not as often, donating a portion of what he makes at gigs to the Rankin Cancer Run.

"Just because of his health circumstances, he's not playing as often, but he's still playing," Wendy said. "His health is still good. We do our day to day stuff, but he gets tired out more easily."

Northcotte will be taking to the stage with The Bay Boys again on Saturday, June 23, for the Down Home Music Festival, a free concert at the Port Dalhousie Pier Marina. He will be joined by several friends and musical peers, including Rum Devils, Darin Parise and Bluegrass Drive, Winston James and various individual artists.

There will be a collection made for the Rankin Cancer Run.

The all-day concert starts at 1 p.m. and takes place on the grounds of Port Dalhousie Pier Marina, which is sponsoring the event. The pier is located at 80 Lighthouse Rd.

For more information, call 905-651-6867.

All About
 The
 WOMEN'S
 SHOW

presented by NIAGARA this WEEK