



Ottawa BLUES Society

OBScene

Spring/Summer 2008

Blues Gives Back to the Community

♪ **Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest
Blues in the Schools
program**

♪ **OBS & Easter Seals**

♪ **Blues on the Rideau
and Local Charities**

In this issue:

OBS Corporate News	3
Blues Dancing Workshop	4
Kat Danser's Blues Pilgrimage	6
Bluesfest Picks & Wish List	8
Easter Seals Blues for Kids 2008	9
Blues on the Rideau Retrospective	10
CD Reviews	14
Postcards From The Road	16
Corporate Directory	18

The 'new look' OBS Website is (almost) here!

Our website 'renovation' is almost complete as we put this newsletter together. By the time the newsletter is in your hands, the 'new look' website should be up and running. We're still at the same address ... www.ottawabluesociety.com so surf on over and check it out!

We plan to debut the new electronic version of The OBScene with the Fall 2008 issue. The OBScene will continue to be issued quarterly, but two issues will be available electronically (via our website) and two will be printed and mailed as usual. Our electronic issues will have colour photos and links to related websites. Of course, members will be free to download and print the electronic issues, if they wish.

2

OBS CONTACTS

Website: www.OttawaBluesSociety.com

E-mail: Please use feedback form on website

CORRESPONDENCE AND ADDRESS CHANGES

Ottawa Blues Society
P.O. Box 708, Station "B"
Ottawa, ON K1P 5P8

OBS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND DIRECTORS

President:: Liz Sykes

Vice President: Brent Diab

Secretary: vacant

Directors : Brent Diab, Louise Dontigny, Ken Fraser,
Mike Graham, Debra Thornington, Linda Yarema
Treasurer: Mike Graham

Legal Advisor: Alan Hirsch

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ADVERTISING RATES

Business card size	\$ 25.00
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Full page	\$ 200.00

30% discount for institutional members.

10% discount for four issues paid in advance.

OBScene Deadlines

Issue	Copy Deadline	Distribution Date
Fall	August 30	Online - September
Winter	November 30	End of December

From the Editor ...

Liz Sykes
lizblues@aol.com

OBS Mission

To foster appreciation, promotion, preservation and enjoyment of the blues in all of its forms

OBS Mandate

To bring together the blues community in Ottawa through participation in blues events and activities.

To work with the blues community in expanding awareness and appreciation of the blues.

To publish a newsletter to inform the blues community of all aspects of the local blues scene and events as well as some highlights of the Canadian and international blues scenes of interest to OBS members.

To provide timely blues information to OBS members by a website & e-mail.

To develop, maintain and increase its membership as a means of fostering and supporting blues.

To stage or assist in staging events that will foster appreciation and awareness of the blues.

To present a "Blues Heart" award to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the blues.

New merchandise from OBS @ Bluesfest

This year OBS is offering some new merchandise items for sale at Bluesfest, July 3-13. Our flashing guitar pins are now flashing guitar necklaces, similar to our popular harmonica necklaces. For the ladies, we've got guitar pick earrings for pierced ears. Of course, we have our traditional denim baseball caps, our OBScene t-shirts, and there are still a few OBS logo golf shirts and ladies tank tops left.

The Ottawa Technical Learning Centre students, along with their teachers Wavey Bennett and Pierre Brisson, volunteered their time and skill to do beading work on 220 guitar necklaces. We thank them all for their invaluable assistance!

3

OBS Corporate Members' News



Lauzon Music Centre

Many of us were introduced to the Blues by the British invasion bands like the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin. Back in early April, returning Corporate Member, Lauzon Music Centre acquired one of 25 special Gibson Custom Shop Black Beauty guitars, played and autographed by Led Zep's Jimmy Page. The guitars were made to the same original specifications as one stolen from Jimmy Page in 1970.

Each of the guitars was numbered and Lauzon's had number 25. The Ottawa Citizen had an article about the guitar with some pictures on Friday, April 4th and mentioned that the price for this rare collectible guitar was a cool \$21,000.00!!

Well, someone with a spare \$21K burning a hole in his pocket must have read the Ottawa Citizen article first thing that morning and went right over to Lauzon's. The person was waiting outside the store before 9:00 AM that morning and bought the guitar as soon as the store opened!

I (and many others) went to Lauzon's the next day to see this rare instrument, but were out of luck ... the guitar was gone. The disappointment only lasted a few minutes, because the Lauzon Music Centre is great place to visit. They also have a new Newsletter feature at www.lauzonmusic.com. The 1st edition of the newsletter had a write-up about the Jimmy Page guitar too.



FabGear 64

Returning Corporate Member FabGear 64 has moved to 1109 Wellington Street West from their Richmond Road location. Their phone number remains 613 725-1964 and the postal code is K1Y 2Y4. The new location east of Parkdale on the north side of Wellington, across and a little bit west of the Elmdale Tavern. (The Elmdale Tavern is another new venue for live Blues!!! Check them out.)

FabGear64 will be at Bluesfest again this year. When I visited the store in late May owner, "Uncle" Bob Cabana, showed me some of the cool ... excuse me, FAB ... gear he will be selling at Bluesfest. Go check out their new location soon and see their amazing selection of shirts and hats. Definitely visit their tent at Bluefest.

See you all at Bluesfest.

Ken Fraser

Where's Blues in Ottawa ...

For the latest news of who's on at the venues

Compiled by Jim Roy

- ♪ Tune in CKCU 93.1 blues & jazz radio shows for listings, Sunday 9 pm with John Tackaberry & Wednesday 9 pm with Ron Sweetman
- ♪ Check for live regular and special events at the OBS web site: www.OttawaBluesSociety.com
- ♪ Check the going-out guides & venue ads : Thursdays in the Ottawa Xpress
Saturdays in the Ottawa Citizen
Wednesdays & Fridays in the Ottawa Sun

- ♪ Contact lizbluesottawa@aol.com to subscribe to Ottawa Blues This Week, an e-mail summary of local blues events or check the website at <http://hometown.aol.ca/lizbluesottawa/thisweek.html>
- ♪ Subscribe Gavin McIntock's & OttawaBluesandj lists at <http://ottawa-blues-jazz.ncf.ca/lists.html>
- ♪ Check the Ottawa Blues & Jazz Guide for Jim Roy on-line calendar of monthly and weekly events at www.ottawabluesjazz.ca

4



BLUES RADIO in OTTAWA

CKCU-FM 93.1

www.ckcufm.com

Sundays: 9-11 pm

Black and Blues
with John Tackaberry

Wednesdays: 3:30- 4:30pm

Iron Maidens
with Diane Wells (D.D. Rocker)

Wednesdays: 9-11 pm

In A Mellow Tone
with Ron Sweetman

Every 4th Saturday: 9-9:30 am

Honky Tonk Saturday Morning
with Ball and Chain

CBC Radio One

91.5 FM

Saturdays: 11 pm-1 am

Saturday Night Blues
with Holger Petersen

CHEZ106 FM

Sundays: 6-7 pm

House of Blues Hour
hosted by Dan Aykroyd
(AKA Elwood Blues)

Blues Blast Blues Dancing Workshop

Blues is my passion in life and my favourite music to dance to. But I had never heard of Blues Dancing classes before, so when I heard about the Blues Blast workshop, I just had to find out more about it and what exactly they meant by "Blues Dancing". My search lead me to www.blues-dance.com, a website where Heidi Fite, Damon Stone and Charlie Fuller (all Blues dancers, instructors and historians) store and preserve information from their historical research of the Blues dances.

The following excerpts from an article written by Heidi Fite give a good description of "Blues Dancing":

What is Blues Dancing?

"Blues dancing" is a modern term used to describe a family of historical dances (such as the "Slow Drag" and the "Fishtail") or the contemporary dances that draw on these dance traditions. These dances are aesthetically, culturally and musically connected and developed in response to Blues music. ... As with Blues music, Blues dances originated and evolved from West African rhythms and movements combined with Western European concepts. ... Blues dances are strongly tied to Blues music, and many aspects of Blues music (for example, call and response, emotional intensity, and tension and release) are directly translated into Blues dancing. ... One common misconception within contemporary dance culture is that Blues dances must necessarily be slow, sensual, and emotionally intense. Yet, as

with Blues music, Blues dances demonstrate the entire range of human emotions – from sadness to joy – not just sensuality, and – as with Blues music – these expressions range across musical styles and tempos. One thing is for certain, Blues dances are a natural – almost inescapable – bodily expression of Blues music, and as long as there is Blues music, there will be Blues dancing." To read Heidi's article in its entirety: www.blues-dance.com/bluesdanceproject/articles/bluesrevival.shtml

The Blues Dancing Workshop was held at the Swing Dynamite Dance School, 151 Chapel Street, and it was an astounding success. 90 students of dance from all ages signed up for this it; 25% of the attendees came from Kingston, Toronto, Quebec City, Montreal and Kitchener/Waterloo.

Heidi Fite and Damon Stone, who rank among the best Blues dancers in the world, delivered this workshop which included instructions in various dances such as "Jookin'" (the style of the old Juke Joint blues dancers), "Ballroomin'" (Blues like they did at the Savoy), "Solo Blues" (distinct ways guys and girls can move to blues music), "Freestyle Modern Blues Dancing" (combining many influences of the past and present with a lot of improvisation, learning to keep the spirit of the Blues alive as you react to the music and your partner). The workshop also included sessions such as "Dancing Through Black History" (before and after Blues

Daily (blues or rock)

Rainbow Bistro, 76 Murray Street
www.therainbow.ca

Tuesday, some Fridays and Saturdays

Elmdale House, 1084 Wellington Street
www.myspace.com/elmdalehouse

Wednesday to Saturday (blues, R&B, rock)

Bass Line Station, Baseline & Greenbank
www.basslinestation.com

Thursday, some Sundays

Irene's, 855 Bank St.
www.irenespub.ca

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday

Tucson's, 2440 Bank Street
www.tucsonblues.com

Sunday

Atomic Rooster, 303 Bank Street

Regular Bluesy Venues**5****April 4-6, 2008, Ottawa ON**

Dancing), "Blues Musicality" (when you connect better with the music, your connection to your partner improves as well), and "Extreme Ballroomin': Dips & Tricks" (who said Blues couldn't be flashy?). Heidi and Damon also talked about the history of blues dance. Blues dance is related to Swing dance; they both emerged from African American vernacular dance, therefore, they share much vocabulary of movement. However, because Blues dance is most often a one- or two-step dance (rather than 6- or 8-count like Swing), dancers often find that they are able to add more improvisation and feeling to the dance. Individual Blues dances tend to involve very simple movements, an intimate feel, a high degree of musical interpretation, and a strong partner connection.

Those in attendance got to practice what they learned to the music of Ottawa's JW-Jones on Friday evening and to The Douglas Watson R&B Revue from Kitchener/Waterloo on Saturday evening. None of the classes of the workshop required a partner; students continuously change partners and they did so as well during the evening dances, with Heidi and Damon joining in the fun. The talent and creativity of the dancers were amazing; their love of Blues music shone through their beautiful bodily interpretations of it and their obvious joy at dancing to all of its styles and tempos. Friday evening, I asked JW-Jones what he

thought about Blues Dancing and he replied: "I love it. That's what it's all about. That's how it all started back in the juke joints. As a musician, it inspires me; I love to see how the music moves people". Douglas Watson complimented the audience on the fine dancing going on during his performance. This workshop was a blast indeed; and the dancing was awesome!

Blues Dancing classes are offered in series; to keep informed on these, you can sign up for Swing Dynamite announcements-only mailing list. No spam, just info on upcoming classes at www.swingdynamite.com. You can also subscribe to their facebook group or to updates via Twitter.

The school also hosts Saturday Night Swing dances which feature both jazz and blues music on a weekly basis with more jump blues and swinging tempos at the beginning of the night, and slower tempos as the dance progresses; as well as periodic blues-themed SNS. The SNS are all-ages, no partner required dances. Clean indoor shoes are required. Admission is \$10 and includes a one-hour swing dance lesson (8:15 to 9:15); water is \$1 a bottle. Swing Dynamite is also very well known for their House Blues Parties -- as part of their weekend workshops, but sometimes just because they feel like it!

Louise Dontigny



Clockwise from top L: The drag; small dip; extreme dip; slow dancing; freestyling; the drag. (photos: Louise Dontigny)

Blues Pilgrimage

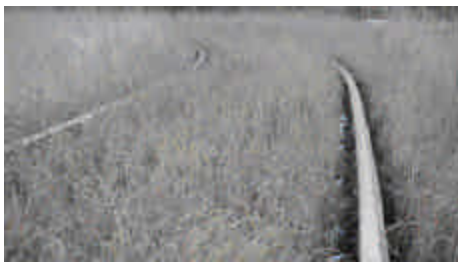
6

Part One:

For years I've literally dreamed the Mississippi Delta culture...the land, the people, the food and, of course, the music. Until I was 30 years old though I didn't realize that my dream life was issuing a strong call. It wasn't until hearing Bessie Smith sing "T'Ain't Nobody's Bizness" by coincidence (if you believe in coincidence) on a Columbia House give away entitled Roots 'n Blues Sampler that my connection to blues music was born.

As we blues lovers know the well is deep and rich. A veritable feast at every sip. I realized that I could not just take a sip from the well so I dove in headfirst and I haven't surfaced yet. As my music career developed so, too, did my wish to take a trip to my personal Mecca...the Mississippi Delta. And I began to dream again of taking a train...the 418...down south to Clarksdale. (Not only was that the train number but it was also the exact time I woke up in the middle of the night for the first three months of 2008.) After some research I learned that the Canadian National Railway system runs coast to coast in Canada and also runs south from Winnipeg along lines that follow the Mississippi River all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. On March 31, 2008, I left my home in Edmonton, Alberta and headed for my hometown of Waldron, Saskatchewan...ground zero for the journey.

In 1967 I was born and raised near the hamlet of Waldron on a mixed farm. Our family home was converted from a two-room granary built on top of an old vehicle landfill site. (It was a common occurrence to hoe potatoes in one of our three gardens and pull up an old chrome mirror, door handle or piece of windshield glass.) My father, a CNR engineer, and my mother, a schoolteacher, worked hard to earn \$80 a week and we mostly lived off the land. The relationship we held with the land was equal with our relationship to the rails. Only a few hundred feet from our home, I recall feeling the tracks rumble and hearing the iron on iron roar. Many times throughout the day the whistle blew announcing its arrival and we were always super careful at the crossings. The sheer locomotive energy made me want to jump aboard and ride the boxcar to wherever it was headed...freedom! Instead, I left pennies to flatten reminding me of my desire.



However, on this trip my desire to travel would be met. This time I held onto my pennies and in the sun's first light I watched as the train floated by issuing a couple extra whistle blows for my early morning efforts. Then I followed the highways along the CN lines to Winnipeg and continued to follow them as they diverge south meeting up with and eventually following the Mississippi River into Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana.

There are many names for the Mississippi River – the Great River - the Big Muddy – Miza'zippa – but to me the only nickname I could create that would reflect my initial meeting was 'trickle creek'. Following the roads and rails I met this legendary river at her headwaters of Lake Itasca, Minnesota. Melting snow on her banks and Canadian Geese gliding on the water introduced me to a river that looked like a small Alberta creek. But by the time I crossed this river again in Memphis, Tennessee she was flooded and two miles across. Quite a contrast.

I arrived in Memphis on the marking of the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The National Civil Rights Museum built on the site of this visionary's tragic death, the Lorraine Motel, is



Kat Danser is an acoustic blues woman located in Edmonton, Alberta. For more information on Kat and her blues pilgrimage to Mississippi and beyond check out:

www.KatDanser.com and <http://katdanser.blogspot.com>

7

418 to Clarksdale

very moving and informative. A must see for anyone and especially for blues musicians and fans who long to understand African American history from slavery through the civil rights movement and into present day. It is here that, in my opinion, a true understanding of blues music is held.

The historic downtown of Memphis is host to the famous Beale Street. Thanks to the commitment of BB King and many others the neon signs light the way to live electric blues, beer, ribs and peach cobbler. Some criticize the street for being "too touristy" but my thought was "thank goodness for these efforts or the history would be completely lost. Bringin' folks to the blues one tourist at a time can't be nothin' but good for the survival of blues music". Regardless of which side of the fence one's opinions lie, blues music is alive and thriving on Beale Street alongside statues of WC Handy and, much beloved, Rufus Thomas.



Other than the Civil Rights Museum my most meaningful moments musically were centered at Stax Records in a very poor area of West Memphis. When you think Stax it's impossible not to whisper the names of some of the all time greats: The Staples Singers, Rufus Thomas, Al Green, Otis Redding and on and on. I felt like I'd found a piece of my musical longing in the blues funk of the 1960s. It all sounded energetic and brand new being in the studio where it all happened. Incredible!

Legend has it that the Mississippi Delta begins in the lobby of the Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis and ends in Vicksburg, Mississippi. As I would discover through reading, listening and talking with locals, this too is in question. Anthropologists indicate that the official Delta begins in Tunica, Mississippi. I am joined by many music lovers who contented that perhaps "The Delta" is more that the actual geography and is also about the energy of art through music. But hey, this is the blues after all...one-quarter truth mixed with three-quarters storytelling. However one wants to view it, I entered the Delta from the lobby of the Peabody destination Clarksdale on Highway 61 alongside the Mississippi River and the CN Line.

It is quite the deal to realize a dream and driving into the Delta was awe-inspiring. The blistering, dry heat on flat alluvial soil exuded the traditional Delta blues energy. Memphis Minnie, Son House, Mississippi John Hurt, Charlie Patton, Tommy Johnson, Skip James, Howlin' Wolf, Jessie Mae Hemphill, Othar Turner, Robert Johnson, Louise Johnson...all ridin' the 418 into Clarksdale.

I was feeling very romantic as I drove into Clarksdale, that is, until the State Patrol pulled me over and I thought "oh great...my moment is ruined". They searched my vehicle inside and out with all the charm of a rock and I learned at the end of it that they were looking for an escaped convict from close by Parchman Farm. I realized immediately that indeed my own blues story was getting richer by the second with this 'real time' story about escaped murderers. We songwriters are always on the look out for good material and this was already turning into a great store. A sign of many amazing experiences to come.



All photos Kat Danser except Kat's photo (top of page) - Roland Bouten

[Stay tuned for Part 2: Turtle Crossings & Frog Leg Wipers.]

Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest's BITS program

Blues in the Schools is an educational program that was created to promote, preserve, and perpetuate the art, culture, and heritage of blues music. Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest brings blues artists/educators to Ottawa for a two-week residency in local primary, middle, and secondary schools. The program was initiated in two Ottawa-area schools in 1999 and has since seen tremendous growth. In the spring of 2007, five visiting artists/educators and 15 local musicians delivered the Blues in the Schools program to more than 6,500 students in Ottawa schools, contributing over 360 hours of in-class instruction over a two-week period.

8



We asked OBS members to tell us their 'don't miss' picks at the 2008 Cisco Ottawa Bluesfest. And we also asked for a 'wish list' for future fests.

Their responses appear below. Though we asked our respondents to restrict their list to one 'don't miss' and two 'wishful thinking', you can see they often didn't 'play by the rules'!

'Don't Miss' @ Bluesfest 2008

- ♫ *I should start by thanking Bluesfest for bringing in the two performers I put down in last year's survey that I wanted to see in 2008- Johnny Winter & Robert Randolph - so it looks like the surveys really are considered seriously!! I am also looking forward to Otis Taylor, Holmes Brothers, Boz Scaggs ... that great gumbo that the Sauce Boss serves up ... and Tokyo Police Club and other wacky stuff over at the Black Sheep stage. Bob Cavan*
- ♫ *Keb' Mo' because I love everything he does; it's just beautiful music and we didn't get to hear enough of it the last time he was at Bluesfest. Louise Dontigny*
- ♫ *This is a tough one (there are many), but I have to go with Allen Toussaint, because of his long history with, and great contribution to the New Orleans music scene and I like the few cuts from his new CD that I have heard so far. Ken Fraser*
- ♫ *This year, I'm most looking forward to seeing Bernard Allison who maintains Luther's blues tradition. Jim Roy*
- ♫ *On my 'don't miss' list – Jason Ricci, an awesome young harmonica player; John Nemeth, another harp-player with a truly outstanding voice; and Gina Sicilia, another amazing voice. Also in this year's lineup are a couple of personal favourite guitar players – Lurrie Bell (IMHO Otis Rush's heir apparent) and Michael Burks (that Albert King sound!) Liz Sykes*
- ♫ *As a longtime Bluesfest Veteran, one of the joys of this amazing festival is the annual opportunity to discover 'new' artists – those whom I've not previously had the pleasure of seeing perform. Trusting upon the sage advice of fellow OBS Blues-Buddies, one of this year's lineup recommendations for me is guitarist, Richard Thompson who was named by Rolling Stone Magazine as one of the top 20 guitarists of all time! Debra Thornington*

Wish List for Future Fests

- ♫ *Curtis Salgado ... Susan Tedeschi, Tab Benoit, Duke Robillard ... bring back Bobby Blue Bland (his 2003 show here was one of the few times I have seen musicians rush out from backstage to see what's going on). Bob Cavan*
- ♫ *I would love to see Gary Hirstius because I love everything he does; he writes beautiful songs. I would also love to see Ronnie Baker Brooks again because it's been way too long since we last enjoyed one of his shows in Ottawa. Louise Dontigny*
- ♫ *Hubert Sumlin, one of my all time great guitar heroes. His style is so unique and unmistakable. And he is still with us, but for how much longer? Ken Fraser*
- ♫ *I'd like to see Canadian acts like Nigel Mack who has appeared at the Chicago Blues Festival, but never at Ottawa. Also, I'd like to see another long established Canadian act, the Powder Blues Band, both of which have never appeared here since Bluesfest started as far as I can remember. Jim Roy*
- ♫ *Eugene 'Hideaway' Bridges, Roxy Perry, Tad Robinson, Teeny Tucker, Clarence Spady, Gary Clark Jr, Sugar Blue, Kilborn Alley Blues Band, Saffire, Latimore, Angela Strehli, Eric Bibb ... and always Walter 'Wolfman' Washington! Liz Sykes*
- ♫ *Well of course, Mr. Eric Clapton himself! Thirty-five years of regularly attending live musical performances/concerts (hundreds and hundreds, yikes! too many to count!) there is no other comparison for 'THE #1 Concert Ever' than that of Eric Clapton performing "From the Cradle". He came on stage that night and immediately stated, "We're here to perform the blues - nothin' but the blues". What followed for me was truly an incredible, almost 'spiritual', musical experience bar none! Debra Thornington*

OBS Reaches Out to Our Community

9

Easter Seals Blues For Kids 2008

The Ottawa Blues Society was invited to support the 2nd Annual Easter Seals Blues for Kids Charity Concert, held at the Rainbow on Friday, April 25, 2008. Easter Seals was delighted with the OBS support and the communication and follow-up from the OBS Executive. As well, they appreciated the door prize provided which proved quite popular with the crowd. Special Events Coordinator Clark Vallis said "OBS' endorsement added extra credibility to our promotions and this event in general" and the event "... came close to the fundraising targets". OBS Corporate members NorthernBlues and CD Warehouse also provided support.

I believe this was simple, positive and an excellent opportunity to network in our community while providing support for our community.

Debra Thornington



Easter Seals Ontario Presents:
The 2nd Annual Blues for Kids charity concert

Hosted by Ottawa's legendary home of the blues,
The Rainbow Bistro
76 Murray Street
in the Byward Market

Featuring all local bands
April 25, 9pm to 2am, featuring:
Bruce and the Burgers
The Coggs
The Lee Bowie Band
and The 20th Century Boys

All proceeds will benefit Easter Seals kids. Since 1922 Easter Seals has been committed to helping children and youth with physical disabilities reach their greatest individual potential.

OTAWA SUN
tickets: \$15 at door or call 613 236 3051 for advance purchase

Dave's DRUM SHOP
33 Clarence Street, In the Byward Market

MEXICALI ROSA'S
33 Clarence Street, In the Byward Market

BLUES
SpaceMan MUSIC.COM
We don't stop at 9pm

VERTIGO RECORDS

CD WAREHOUSE

Easter Seals
Helping Kids with Physical Disabilities Succeed

A huge THANK YOU from Choose The Blues Productions to:

The Cove Country Inn, Management & Staff: Mary & Terry Cowan and sons Seamus and Jeff, owners; and Maureen Price Manager and the great bar staff – Lisa, Suzie, Dana, Marie – Chef Cathy, Tammy & John and all the staff in the kitchen

All the wonderfully talented artists who brought us such great blues this season

Tim Greencorn & Mark Evans from Little Chicago Studios.com for the superb sound

Barry Hart, What If Graphics.com, Smiths Falls for the creative signage

Corinna from Signs & Stripes, Smiths Falls for the stage signage

All the local, regional and blues media for their great support and coverage

Ottawa, Kingston, Montreal and Toronto Blues Societies

But most especially – the GREAT AUDIENCES who came out and supported the Series. Without you there would be no Blues On The Rideau

See you next year! Check the web site for updates

www.bluesontherideau.ca

10

SHOW #1

Danny Brooks & the Memphis Brothers

September 21, 2007



Group shot - L to R back row: Denis Pinhorn (bass), James Doran (BOTR Producer), Bucky Berger (drums), Danny Brooks (guitar & vocals); front row: Ed Zankowski (sax), Teddy Leonard (guitar); Danny with Ed; Bucky on the skins

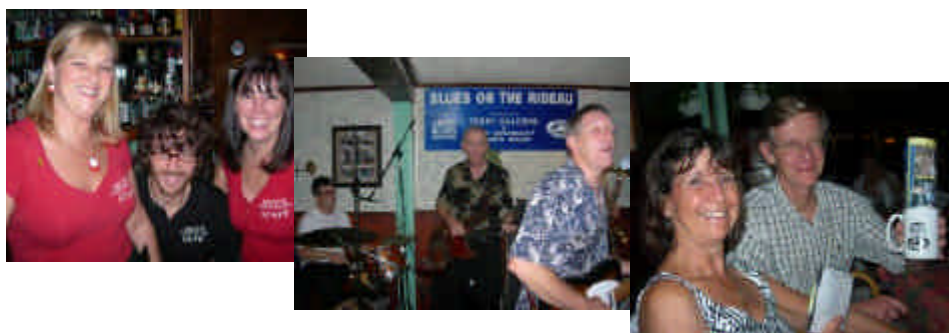
- ♪ "10 out of 10 - Danny Brooks should play Ottawa Bluesfest in 2008! Everyone feels like part of the family at The Cove" Laury Clark, Ottawa
- ♪ "The band was super – great talent! Fabulous dance music" Bob & Shirley Shipton, Westport (attended almost every Show this season and one of the best dancing couples on the floor!)
- ♪ "This night far exceeded my expectations. I'm an Ottawa Bluesfest regular and it's great to see this caliber of band in a small venue like this. 10 out of 10 for everything!" Kim Clusian, Nepean

SHOW #2

Terry Gillespie & the Granary Blues Band

October 19, 2007

- ♪ "We love Terry Gillespie and followed him here. First time to The Cove. What a fantastic evening! We will be back for sure!" Miro Stastny, Hawkesbury
- ♪ "Great band, great time. We'll keep coming back! 15 on a scale of 1 to 10 for the band" John Allan, Westport
- ♪ "Better than Viagra" Luc Bujold, Devil Lake



L to R: Some of the friendly, fun Cove staff – Lisa, Seamus & Maureen; Terry Gillespie with Stephen Barry on bass and Gordon Adamson on drums; Prize draw winners (prizes – CDs, mugs, etc given out at every Show)



The Cove from outside – where it's at!

MONEY RAISED FOR LOCAL CHARITIES FROM 07/08 BLUES ON THE RIDEAU SHOWS

September 21– Elgin Schoolhouse Restoration \$430
 October 19– Lucy Drysdale Memorial Scholarship Fund \$520
 November 16– Rideau Vista Elementary School \$550
 November 17– St. Edward's Catholic Elementary School \$560
 January 18– Lions Club Mobility Van \$605
 January 19– Kisses for Katie Irvine \$580 plus \$520 in her Donation Box

February 15– Friends of Foley Mountain \$595
 March 21– Westport In Bloom \$600
 April 20– Westport Food Bank \$500
 April 21– Rideau Waterway Land Trust - \$540
 May 16 Rideau District Museum - \$525
 June 20– Westport Library - \$585
Total: \$7,110 (Goal was \$6,000)

11

SHOW #3

Garrett Mason

November 16-17, 2007

- ♪ "Food was delicious with lots of selection as always. Awesome band. Got the crowd dancing from the first song. Great solid beat from Garrett just like Dutchie used to do!" Barbara Jones, Ottawa
- ♪ "I love the atmosphere, music and friends. Westport is a lovely town and The Cove is the focal point for great food and music" Bonnie Burrows, Yarker
- ♪ "We came for Garrett and he didn't disappoint. 10 out of 10. Great atmosphere. Love that boomers have a place like this to come to & groove!" Heather Dawe, Ottawa



L to R: Table full of 'happy campers' enjoying The Cove food; Garrett layin' it down with Mike Farrington on bass, Damien Moynihan on drums; The Cove dance floor – small and packed as usual!

SHOW #4

David Rotundo

January 18-19, 2008



to R: David & Band 'smokin' at The Cove: Dan Dufour on lead guitar, David on harp & vocals, Shane Scott on bass, and Des Brown on rhythm guitar. Chuck Keeping on drums not in picture; The band with little Katie Irvine who is battling an inoperable brain tumour. Over \$1,100 was raised for her and her family that night; David playing for Sue Irvine, Taylor and Katie; Seamus (bass) and Jeff (drums) from the musical Cowan family, owners of The Cove – taking off the bar aprons and stepping in for a couple of tunes with David.

- ♪ "Everything is totally awesome here! I always feel so welcome. Staff is friendly, fun & professional. Food to die for. David Rotundo Band NEVER disappoints. Love it all!" Mary Phillips Yale, Hudson QC
- ♪ "David Rotundo was well worth the drive in the snow storm from Kingston. 10 out of 10 for everything!" Carol Koob, Kingston
- ♪ "David's 'Kitchen Tour' was awesome. I am in awe! On a scale of 1 to 10 – 20 each for venue, food and service, 100 for the sound and 200 for the band!" Hugh & Karen Lapham, Arnprior

SHOW #5

Jack de Keyzer Band

February 15, 2008



L to R: The band – Chris Murphy sax, Dave Colter drums, Jack de Keyzer guitar & vocals, Al Duffy bass; Jack 'spankin' the plank' for a very appreciative dancer

12

SHOW #6

Kenny 'Blues Boss' Wayne

March 21, 2008



L to R: The band – Pete Schmidt on guitar, Mike Fitpatrick on drums, Gary Kendall on bass with Kenny "Blues Boss" on piano and vocals; Kenny playin' the 88's with finesse and grace; Kenny with Kate & Diane – CD sales were high!

- ♪ "The band was awesome. Boy can he play! Food delicious" The Weirs, Westport
- ♪ "I honestly had not paid much attention to Blues music until I started coming here in the fall. Now I just can't miss a Show. I tell everyone I know what a great night it is!! 10 out of 10 for everything, as always." Sheri Mahon-Fournier, Rideau Ferry
- ♪ "10 out of 10. This place is like the New Orleans of the north, minus the hurricanes!" Ron & Sandra Seaman, Brampton

SHOW #7

Anderson/Sloski - Shakura S'Aida

April 18-19, 2008

- ♪ "Awesomely soulful! Great voices, great organ, rich sound. Very tight band" Bob & Carole Peyman, Lanark
- ♪ "Thanks BOTR for bringing two of the best session players in Canada in Lance Anderson and Mike Sloski. Westport had its soul banks refilled!" Steve Tennant, Perth
- ♪ "Shakura is electrifying ... a revelation...we have to hear her more!" Alan & Kathryn Stevens, Almonte.



L to R: Shakura & Lance; Innkeeper Terry Cowan 'got his mojo workin'; Mike Sloski on drums, Brooke Blackburn on guitar, Shakura

Chris Murphy
on sax –
'pimp my
ride'



- ♪ "Great food, great band, great evening. Juno grade all the way – wow! You have a great thing going here." John & Wynne Quigley, Perth
- ♪ "Everyone knows how to have a good time at The Cove – even the ones who work here! 10 out of 10 for everything, 10+ for Jack de Keyzer Band!" Lindy Baxter, Goodwood
- ♪ "This is the 7th time we have seen the Jack de Keyzer Band and they always put on a fabulous show. No wonder they are Maple Blues Award winners. Thanks for bringing such high caliber talent to Westport. We love it!" Tom & Lorna Rae, Harrowsmith

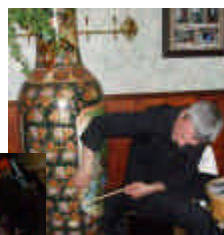
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SHOW #8

Julian Fauth Band

May 16, 2008

- ♪ "Totally enjoyable. Great night out. 10 out of 10 for everything. Excellent" Ron & Jocelyne Campbell, Delta
- ♪ "Yet another amazing evening of wonderful food & entertainment. Thank you!" Jim & Julie Swift, Westport (there 5th Show of the season)
- ♪ "Never knew there was such an incredible show/ band/dinner so close to home! 10 out of 10." Steve & Stephanie Fournier, Chantry

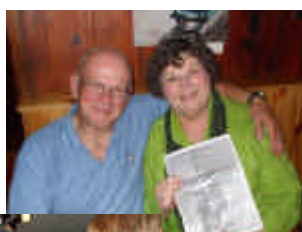


L to R: The band: Wayne Charles (harmonica & vocals), Bob Vespaziani (drums), Jay Danley (guitar), Sam Petite (bass) and Julian Fauth (piano & vocals); Julian; Bob V. hitting everything in sight including the large Cove urn; Another local charity benefiting from BOTR - \$525 to the Rideau District Museum

SHOW #9

Finis Tasby

June 20, 2008



- ♪ "Lots of fun EVERY time we come" Paul Miles, Smiths Falls
- ♪ "Hats off to a great season. Next year looks awesome! You are wonderful hosts." Joan Mumford, Kingston (attended 6 Shows this year)
- ♪ "It's been a fabulous year – the bands, the Cove's hospitality, everything! What a great "fini" with Finis! Roll on next year and pity those who don't come" Diana & Luc Bujold, Perth Road (attended EVERY show this year)

to R: Pete Schmidt on guitar, Finis & Gary Kendall on bass; The famous Cove buffet; 'very Show' regulars Dick & Marg Christy enjoying Pete's fine guitar work; Margaret &erry Morris from Devil Lake – winners of the Cove Weekend for 2 Grand Prize drawn that ght from all the Comment Cards over the season (they won from Jack de Keyzer night, ebruary 15)

CD Reviews

14

“Cuttin’ Loose – Kevin Mark

Blue Hog, 2007

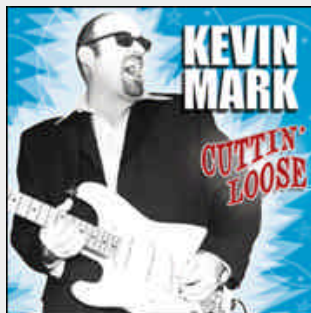
www.kevinmark.com

Reviewed by Mike Graham

If it's 'boogie' and high-tempo rocking blues that you like ... then this is for you! If there ever was a 'party CD', this is it! Kevin Mark produced all tracks and wrote/co-wrote 11 of the 14 numbers.

Kevin was born and raised in Montreal and began his musical career at the age of 12 when he received a saxophone for his birthday. Through his teen years, in high school, Kevin studied sax, drums and guitar – all of which he plays on “Cuttin’ Loose”. In 1996 Kevin and his band were presented with the ‘Best New Artist’ award at the Maple Blues Awards.

Kevin's style has evolved from the influences of legendary artists such as T-Bone Walker, B.B. King, Albert King, Albert Collins and Luther Allison. This production takes you from the West Coast to Chicago with a smattering of New



Orleans! This CD features 14 tracks and opens with two pounding rockers 'Goin' To Vegas' and 'Let's Party All Night'. Both tracks set the tone for this high-octane CD. Yes, Kevin is a rocker, but he shows his versatility when he slows it down to a B.B. King style number with the title track and then proceeds to more up-tempo Chicago style tracks. Track 6, 'Pretty Little Thing' is a 50s-ish rock tune that again illustrates the versatility of Kevin and his band.

Two feature tracks are the Glover/Innis classic 'Seven Nights To Rock' and the Leiber/Stoller jive classic entitled 'One Bad Stud'. On the last track, Kevin performs a fine arrangement of the traditional blues classic 'St. James Infirmary'. I really enjoyed listening to this CD over and over again!

"Cuttin' Loose" is available on the Blue Hog Label. For more info, see Kevin's web-site www.kevinmark.com

“Good, Bad, N’ Blue” — Mudd Cats

Independent, 2004

www.muddcats.com

Reviewed by Mike Graham

The Mudd Cats are a BC-based band that plays primarily on the west coast. The band consists of four members: Brad Davis (lead vocals, guitar); David Piggen (guitar and backing vocals); Kelly Spencer (bass and vocals); and Brad Klenck (drums). The band was formed by Brad Davis and David Piggen, both of whom wrote all the songs on this CD. The Mudd Cats are a mainstay on the Vancouver blues scene and have time after time demonstrated their versatility and creativity, as is evidenced in this fine production.

David and Brad have been heavily influenced by B.B. King, Muddy Waters and Canada's own Colin James. Of particular note, David Piggen credits The Paul Butterfield Blues Band as a great inspiration in his musical journey.



"Good, Bad, N' Blue" contains 12 tracks of solid blues ranging from the funky first 2 tracks – 'Low Down Dirty Shame' and 'Doubletimin'' to slow 'bluesy' tracks 'If I Had A Dollar' and the title track 'Good, Bad, N' Blue'. Most CDs have a couple of tracks that I don't particularly like, but I cannot say that for this production!

The Mudd Cats clearly show that they are comfortable playing a variety of blues styles, as this CD takes us on a tour of funk, rock, R&B, Chicago blues and of course, West Coast blues. Track 10 'Best I Can' is a slow Chicago-style number highlighted by Brad Davis' vocals and great guitar work from David Piggen. The CD closes with a fantastic track entitled 'Watermelon Wine' – a real rocker featuring pulsating bass, drums and sax!

This CD, although produced in 2004, is still available through the Mudd Cats web-site at www.muddcats.com where you can hear a sample of each track. Give it a listen.....I am sure you will like it.



2008 Juno Gala: Fathead, winner Blues Album of the Year.
Blues Convention Centre, Calgary AB. Photo: CARAS/iPhoto.ca

2nd Juno Award Win for Fathead!

Fathead's latest release "Building Full Of Blues" (Electro-Fi) received the 2008 Juno Award for 'Blues Recording Of The Year'. It's been nine years since the band won their first Juno for their disc "Blues Weather" (Electro-Fi), and they now return to the winner's circle with an album that typifies all things Fathead: solid grooves, soul drenched melodies, ace musicianship, and compelling true-to-life songwriting.



15

"Cocktails By The Dumpster — Capital B

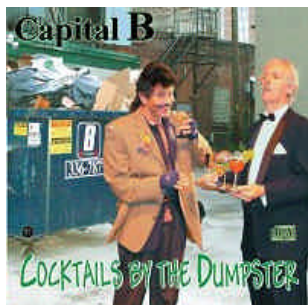
Independent, 2007

www.capitalb.ca

Reviewed by Mike Graham

Capital B (Brian McPhillips) is a talented musician from Ottawa, who has been on the Ottawa music scene for the last 10 years, following a 20-year absence from performing. In his 'early years' Brian played in many bars and clubs in southern Ontario and also locally in such bars as the Ottawa House and the Chaudiere's legendary Green Door (well known to many of us old-timers from Ottawa!)

Capital B has now released three CDs. This third release is another example of the tremendous blues talent that we have in the city. Capital B demonstrates strong vocals and excellent guitar work throughout the 15 tracks. The opening number is the title track 'Cocktails By The Dumpster' which is a funky fun tune with strong bass, excellent sax, and very enjoyable lyrics. I listened



to this particular track many times and I feel it is a 'hidden gem' that should get play on the local airwaves! Feature tracks on this CD are 'I Made A Mistake Again' (great drums and bass) and my favourite – 'My Baby's Got A Problem' (great lyrics about a lady who can't keep her clothes on!!)

All 15 tracks are excellent productions and Capital B, in his liner notes, has expressed his thanks to the many local talented musicians and friends who helped him achieve this initiative. Capital B is backed up by Steven Ray on bass, Philip Shaw Bova on drums, Tim Roberts and Terry Owen on sax and Cyndi Kennedy on vocals.

Capital B's liner notes state that 'Smooth grooves' and 'Strong lyrics' are the most frequently used comments by audiences when they're describing Capital B – the same goes for this CD ... check it out and check out Capital B at www.capitalb.ca



Everybody's checking out YouTube!
Some of our blues friends are even
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your favourite YouTube blues videos.

Use the 'Contact Us' form on the OBS
website to send us your YouTube links
and tell us what makes your favourite
YouTube video great!



Left: JW with James Cotton, Mr. Superharp; Australian tour - gig in Tasmania

Right: JW sitting in with John Nemeth at the Yale in Vancouver



Postcards From The Road #18:

INTRO: Since my last postcards, we've played in Buffalo, Kingston (both during 'the' major snowstorm in March which turned a 4 hr drive into 8), Chicoutimi, Montreal, Toronto, Halifax and Windsor, NS, a Western Canadian tour, a one-off fly-in to Denver, CO for a wedding, and a mini tour in the USA that brought us to Cleveland, OH. The highlight of the last trip was visiting the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame where we saw Muddy's red telecaster, Albert Collins' tele (with capo on it!), telegrams between Blues/Soul/R&B stars like Elvis, Big Joe Turner, Jackie Wilson etc. Very cool! "Bluelisted" is also now archived at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame until the end of time.

OBS: Last time we 'spoke', you had just returned from 10 days in Europe and done some marathon driving in the US! And the new CD, "Bluelisted", was finished and in production, with Dan Aykroyd's liner notes adding some interest. You promised to tell us about meeting James Cotton?

JW: Of course! I met Mr. Superharp at the Limestone City Blues Festival in Kingston, backstage just before his performance. We took a photo together, and chatted about some common friends. Unfortunately, due to the loud music, and his almost non-existent voice, I didn't get as much of a visit as I would have liked. It was frustrating being beside a legendary bluesman with no one else interrupting, yet we couldn't really chat. It was still an honour to meet him though, of course. There are fewer and fewer of the legendary old school players.

OBS: You had something of a hiatus over the winter. While we were shoveling near record-breaking snowfalls here in Ottawa, you were enjoying summer in Australia! I'm sure some of it was holiday-time, but you must have done some 'work' there too?

JW: Yep, I definitely took it easy over the winter, and after some of the long tours we had done, I really needed it! It was all part of the plan too – work hard, save enough cash to keep me afloat for 3 months off without the need to think about money. Aside from my first 'hot Christmas', I also enjoyed snorkeling in the ocean, attempting to ride one of our horses (not a pretty sight), and took a trip to Malaysia and Thailand. We opted to travel these areas to see what life in these countries was really like, so there were no relaxing beaches. Instead, we experienced the food, culture, pollution, and general chaos associated with these third world countries. It was an excellent experience though I don't anticipate finding the need to

return anytime soon. Unfortunately, my plans to travel to Africa will also be put on a possible permanent hold after realizing the potential of danger in these countries based on a few of our experiences.

I did two mini-tours in Oz, one was just a weekend in Brisbane area which was great fun working with the same drummer as last time, Coojie Timms, and an excellent guitarist who played bass with me, JB Lewis.

The other tour was a four-gig stint in Tasmania, the island off the south of mainland Australia. It features the best-of-the-best in Australian scenery; beaches, mountains, and best of all, cooler weather. I flew to Sydney, but the second flight that would take me to Hobart, Tasmania, was delayed and then cancelled. I spent the night sleeping in the airport because as a single traveler, I was last on the priority list. This also meant that I missed a key television appearance on the Australia-wide ABC (like our CBC). Though I hadn't slept properly in almost two days, our first show was great. My "tassie" band was Pete Cornelius on bass (another guitarist who kicks ass on bass!), and Henry Nichols on drums. These were Pete's first gigs on bass, and he was absolutely rockin'. I couldn't believe how killer he was, let alone the fact that he'd never played at a gig before.

OBS: The new CD is out, getting terrific reviews, airplay on XM Radio along with a host of blues shows across Canada & the US. What's the best track? What was the most exciting part? What are you most proud of?

JW: Best track.... well, I like every song on the album, but there are a few that have been getting a lot of attention. Looking the World Straight in the Eye is a favourite for a lot of family, friends, and fans, and Double Eyed Whammy is another one that keeps getting pointed out. However, Charlie Musselwhite (excuse the blatant name drop) said he especially likes 'Heavy Dosage' and 'Somebody's Got to Burn'.

Most exciting part... wow, that's hard to say. Working with all of those California guys was a real trip. It started with just a little session to document a recording with the worlds greatest blues drummer, Richard Innes, then it just morphed into an all out who's who of west coast blues when Larry, Little Charlie and Watson (in that order) came on board.

I am most proud of my band ... Jeff, Marty and Jesse sound absolutely rockin' on this album. I had a fan in



Left: Recording 'Bluelisted' in the living room; Ottawa Xpress cover story, March 2008

All photos courtesy
www.jw-jones.com

Check out the new look JW-Jones website at www.jw-jones.com

See & hear JW-Jones live on YouTube

www.youtube.com/user/jwjones1

Ottawa Blues Society 'Q & A' with JW-Jones

Colorado mention the killer groove on 'Can't Play a Playboy' and that he loved how Richard and Larry sounded on it. Then I told him it was Jeff and Marty! Plus, Jesse's organ and piano playing really fills out the album, adds a layer of warmth to the songs.

OBS: *Who's in the band these days? How do you manage to keep a consistent sound when touring often involves using different personnel?*

JW: The main core of the band is Jeff Asselin on drums and Martin Regimbald on bass. On festivals and occasional club dates we'll have Jesse Whiteley on organ; on some tours, we drop the bass, and travel as an organ trio just to mix it up. People are starting to notice the consistency in sound even when the players change, and I think that is great. There are two constants at least, the vocals and the guitar. Otherwise, I think part of it comes from the arrangements that we do (no matter who is on the instrument), and also from the fact that I make sure each player is doing things a specific way, whether it be a drum fill, a variation of a groove or about fifty other things.

OBS: *You're opening for Brian Wilson at Bluesfest. Is that cool? Are you a BeachBoys fan?*

JW: They were my first favourite band. When I was a kid (8 or 9) I used to have Beach Boys TAPES. I listened to them all the time; I especially remember one album with the song 'do ya wanna dance' on it. I am really looking forward to opening for Brian Wilson, and have to thank Mr. Monahan and everyone at Bluesfest for once again putting us in the best possible slot at the festival. They estimate 20,000 people; I hope they are right!

OBS: *You've seen the Ottawa Bluesfest lineup. Who do you recommend as 'can't miss'? And why?*

JW: Other than our show (July 9 – 7:00)? (hehe) Tied in first place for what not to miss – Anson Funderburgh and the Rockets featuring James Harman (Jul 12 – 6:15) and John Nemeth (July 9 – 6:15).

I am biased because I have a personal connection to both of them. I met Anson for the first time at the Ottawa Bluesfest in 1997 ... 11 years ago! Since then I have played with him and the band several times (and played with Sam Myers separately even more times before he passed away), and have even had dinner at Anson's house outside of Dallas, Texas.

I first saw John Nemeth last summer at the Waterfront

Blues Festival in Portland, OR where we opened for him in front of a whopping 40,000 people. I already had one of his CDs, but fell in love with a song he sang live called 'Blue Broadway'. I immediately downloaded the album from iTunes, and soon had a full album of killer tracks. Plus "Magic Touch" was produced by Anson Funderburgh and featured some friends in the biz – Kaz Kazanoff and the Texas Horns, Ronnie James on bass, Junior Watson on guitar, and Wes Starr on drums. What a lineup!

We flew out to Vancouver a day before our western tour started in May, and surprisingly, that night we saw John Nemeth at the Yale Hotel with Junior Watson on guitar, Bob Welch on bass (who I have seen play equally killer on guitar with Mark Hummel and piano with Watson), and another former Hummel band member, Marty Dobson on drums. I sat in with the band for a few tunes (see YouTube for 'Sweet Sixteen'), and requested Blue Broadway as well (also on YouTube).

After the show, I realized that Nemeth was playing the same day as we are at Bluesfest so why not perform 'Blue Broadway' and have him sing it with us! So that is what we're gonna do! I am really looking forward to it, but make sure you see his show before coming over to see us.

Also check out – Nick Moss, Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials, Jason Ricci and, of course, Tony D's Power Hour.

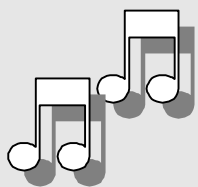
OBS: *Following the Cisco Ottawa fest, what's on the summer festival & gig calendar for JW-Jones?*

JW: We'll be touring down south throughout North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida, plus a show in New York City on the way back. Later in the summer and early fall we look forward to the Dutch Mason Blues Festival, hopefully Kingston and Port Credit for a show or two and a sit-in with Charlie Musselwhite (note Kingston and Port Credit are not confirmed). Don't miss our next local show after Bluesfest which will be **Friday, August 29 at THE RAINBOW BISTRO!**

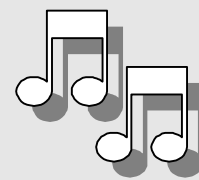
Looks like summer will be prettttty, pretttty, pretttty good ... have a safe and relaxing summer, all you blues fans!

See ya on the flip side,
JW

PS: ... you asked if Dallas [JW's Samoyed] is a blues fan.? He is definitely a fan of "Howlin'" Wolf!!!



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website: www.ottawabluesociety.com

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Willie P. Bennett	1951 – 2008
Rev. James E. Orange	1942 – 2008
Calvin Owens	1929 – 2008
Buddy Miles	1947 – 2008
Jeff Healey	1966 – 2008
Alfred Julius 'Dodie' Jackson Sr.	1940 – 2008
Calvin 'Skeeter' Brandon	1948 – 2008
Thom Roberts (Champagne Charlie)	1945 – 2008
Michael Miller	1952 – 2008
Sean Costello	1979 – 2008
D.C. Minner	1935 – 2008
Jimmy McGriff	1936 – 2008
David Gahr	1922 – 2008
Danny Rhodes	1950 – 2008
Bo Diddley	1928 – 2008
Kirby 'Chop Chop' Small	1944 – 2008
Ira Tucker Sr.	1925 – 2008

If you are not familiar with the names on this list, please
check them out and learn about their contributions to
blues, jazz and roots music.