

THAMES VALLEY BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

December 2005



We are now well into our third year of some of the best amateur acoustic bluegrass music you will hear and/or participate in all winter. Just like the “parkin’ lot pickin’” you find at the numerous festivals and parties during the summer.

Your new executive elected on September 29, 2005 follows:

<i>President</i>	<i>Don Hutchinson</i>
<i>Vice-president</i>	<i>Wayne Uncer</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Wes Lowe</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Pete Taylor</i>
<i>Library/Education Chairman</i>	<i>Sy Glover</i>
<i>Membership Chairman</i>	<i>Gary Koenig</i>
<i>Program Chairman</i>	<i>Pam Armstrong</i>

Coming Events:

We are having a **Christmas Party on December 22nd** (the last Thursday before Christmas) with Pizza ordered in and some punch provided. Please bring a Christmas treat (squares, cookies, etc.) Hope to see you there.

January Jam

The TVBA will be holding its first annual “January Jam” on Sunday January 15, 2006 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Thamesford Recreation Centre Hall. The Jam will be open to any bands and/or musicians playing Bluegrass Music. The TVBA members, as part of our ongoing workshops, will be asked to form several bands from within our ranks. The club bands will play five songs each as part of our introduction to the stage workshop. Any full time and part time bands are asked to please register in advance. If you wish to showcase your group, please call us and book a spot. The admission is free to all musicians and only \$5.00 to all others. All proceeds will be donated to a local charity. Tickets will be on sale at the door.

For more information call Wayne or Jane at 1-519-469-3382

William & Clarke Expedition Concert – March 19, 2006

The Thamesford Hall has been rented for March 19, 2006 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm for this concert. Please keep this date open and come prepared to have a good time. We will continue to remind you of this concert and provide you with updates and details of other concerts and events that we are planning in future newsletters.

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Learning Library

The Learning Library has now been set up with materials donated by members as well as materials purchased from The Stringman.

Just a reminder, you must be a member to access this material at the low cost of \$5.00 per 2 week period. Members have been making use of the library regularly since it was established earlier this fall. Sy Glover is the man to see for your learning needs.

Workshops

We are currently working on the format and duration for our learning workshops as well as some form of official recognition for participants. Any suggestions from members as to workshops desired will be more than welcome. Please forward your thoughts to Pam Armstrong, Program Chairman.

Memberships

Memberships are still Family \$30.00 and Single \$20.00. Memberships were due on October 31st. If you haven't already paid, please see Gary Koenig, Membership Chairman he will be happy to issue you your Membership Card.

TVBA has donated \$1,000 towards the Northern Sons expenses to attend the IBMA in Nashville and \$500 to the Thamesford Legion in memory of Wayne Pilkey our friend and fellow picker.

Check out our website at **TVBA.ca** sponsored by **The Stringman** and developed and maintained by Gord DeVries.

A Personal Note from Your New (read inexperienced) Secretary

I have been involved with Bluegrass music for some 20 years now thanks to a fortunate encounter with Sheldon Tait at the Back Forty Bluegrass Festival in the late 70's. Sheldon and I went on to become good friends and I was involved in the beginning of The Pickin' Parlour at Sheldon and Patti's place in Drumbo in about '84 or '85. We met every Friday night during the winter in what had been a poolroom on the ground floor of the Tait's' home on the main intersection. Some of the current members of the TVBA will remember those fun Friday nights and the music, mostly bluegrass, with some country, rockabilly and blues thrown in.

The quality of the music has improved greatly over the years until we now have some very expert musicians mixed in with the serious amateurs (like me) and the just beginners. The music is smoother and better coordinated but the quality of the fun and fellowship is just the same.

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I just wanted to take this chance to remember the good times with Sheldon and Patti and all the great people I met through them.

I also want to thank Wayne Uncer for being instrumental in getting both the Back Forty and the TVBA going.

We are going to try and produce this Newsletter every month during the season and as needed during the summer. Contributions to the Newsletter will be welcomed. Please contact any member of the executive with your thoughts and ideas.

The Thames Valley Bluegrass Association Executive