

White Rock Rag

Newsletter of the White Rock Traditional Jazz Society, White Rock, BC

January 2018

Dance to Live HOT JAZZ every Sunday 2-5 pm at RC Legion 240, South Surrey, BC

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

My first year as president has brought one thing really into focus for me, and that is, how Don Phillimore did this job for 17 years is beyond me. I find myself thinking and talking to my wife just about every day as to how we can keep things going. Financially, the year has been successful. We seem to be able to keep the wolf from the door and pursue our Youth Jazz program and the Sunday band sessions going every week. This is made possible with the magnificent support we receive from our members through the 50/50 draw each week. Private donations from our members play a huge part in keeping the Youth Jazz program going. I have had terrific support from our Board of Directors in keeping it all going.

Dave Ayton has done a great job once again in keeping the members informed about the upcoming

gigs with his weekly emails. Susan Enefer has also made a great difference to the way we are keeping both members and potential new members informed about the latest band schedule and other jazz information using our new website, and our Facebook page. We are now cooking with gas!

At the moment, I think trad jazz is surviving and maybe even making some headway. We have moved our attention into the university world to attract new young musicians to play trad jazz. With Vancouver Dixieland Jazz Society working with the Chilliwack schools through Gary Raddysh, and Sam Huang and his "Vancity Hot Jazz Society" performing our kind of music every Monday evening, I think our kind of music is on track.

Dave Roper

BAND SCHEDULE - WINTER 2018

Jan 7	Square Pegs Jazzy Band
Jan 14	Butter and Egg Jazz Band
Jan 21	Crescent City Jazzers
Jan 28	Maple Leaf Jazz Band
Feb 4	No jazz - Super Bowl
Feb 11	Swing Patrol
Feb 18	Crescent City Jazzers
Feb 25	Holly Arntzen & Lloyd
Mar 4	Fourth Avenue Five
Mar 11	Alan Matheson - PreBop + Teagardeners
Mar 18	Crescent City Jazzers
Mar 25	Ben MacRae
Apr 1	Bonnie Northgraves Quartet

2017 Board of Directors	
Dave Roper	President & Director, University Jazz
Don Phillimore	Past President
Dave Ayton	Vice-President & Band Coordinator
Tom Moses	Treasurer
Dorin Sherriff	Secretary
Carol Jensen	Membership & Volunteer Coordinator
Ron Gruenberg	Member-at-Large
Dave McClung	Member-at-Large

Volunteers	
Carol & Kevin Meleady	50/50 Tickets
Sharon Stanley & Joe Smith	Parasols

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018, 12:30 PM AT LEGION 240.

"A MIGHTY OAK FROM A LITTLE ACORN GREW"... by the late Art Wall, a devout Jazz enthusiast, 1999

The interest in writing this brief chronological record of the introduction and growing interest in Traditional Dixieland Jazz in the White Rock/Surrey area was first created by a nostalgic trip down memory lane while attending a special birthday celebration honoring Jean McKay (Kromm), a local idol of sorts for her passionate devotion to Dixieland music. Many have regarded the Jazz happening here as a significant musical enlightenment.

The birthday gathering was one of great warmth and sentiment. Old friendships were renewed among early day Jazzers and many happy recollections were brought to mind. I was invited to be a participant in a friendly Roast about our gal, Jean. I ducked this feature of the revelry. To roast someone you have to dwell on his or her foibles, idiosyncrasies or shortcomings. In Jean's case I couldn't think of any! How can you roast someone like Jean McKay Kromm whose personality and disposition are best described as "all sweetness and light"? Instead of the good-natured roast I offered this wish to Jean, "May your life always be filled with the kind of love and laughter and good friends that you find here tonight. And always keep a little Jazz in your life - it's the secret to happiness and longevity". A good life must include these things to keep us happy and forever young. God invented Dixieland Jazz for our dancing pleasure and Gospel Jazz for spiritual inspiration as a way of apologizing for all the troubles in the world. Listening and dancing to Dixieland music and sharing it with a lot of good friends is pure enjoyment. Jazzers make up a great fraternity. What sets us apart, besides our love for Dixieland music, is our sense of enduring friendship and caring for each other.

Jean McKay was a stalwart and dedicated leader of our White Rock Jazz Club from its modest beginning in November 1990 at Howard and Pat Letroy's "Oasis-by-the-Sea" restaurant and watering-hole adjacent to Semiahmoo Park. A vibrant, super Gal, she served as our ad hoc first President, meeting all the early challenges with courage and a positive attitude. She shepherded us through a tortuous course of uncertainty and recurring insolvency as we struggled to stay alive at the local Bank. We seemed to be constantly financially drained and as free of operating funds as a frog is of feathers from one Sunday session to the next. But somehow, Jean managed to work through all the problems inherent in a growing venture such as ours, while still preserving an upbeat spirit. Rarely found are confident and capable individuals with the good-natured demeanor of Jean McKay. She has a gift for friendship recognized by everyone. Helpful to us was a flamboyant greeter supreme - a little known volunteer who could charm and bring in a lot of timid peek-a-boos at the door who were reluctant to enter for the first time.

Rice Honeywell was the first one of us on the scene at the Oasis-by-the-Sea in the Fall of 1990. He played the piano for the entertainment of the evening dinner crowd. He proved to be a man of vision when he seized the opportunity to introduce friendly owner Howard Letroy to the idea of initiating Sunday evening Jazz sessions for listening and dancing pleasure. The proposal was enthusiastically approved and became a winner. The kick-off Jazz session with the newly formed Red Beans and Rice Band was on Sunday, November 18th, 1990. Before long, every Sunday at the restaurant Jazz Club was crowded. Seating became scarce as Jazz enthusiasts came early. The dance space was tight - cozy to the extreme - but it was pleausurably acceptable to everyone. This was a great happening. A new dimension in lively musical entertainment was being born in this erstwhile quiet community. Traditional Dixieland Jazz had come alive. In retrospect it was a banner day for White Rock and for enthusiasts of this kind of music when a multi-talented music man from Toronto, well-known there as genial Trumpet-man Rice

Honeywell, retired from that City and took his place among us in White Rock. He soon formed a new Band of well-honed musicians and named it Red Beans and Rice after a unique blend of traditional Cajun food closely related to Louisiana, most notably its Crescent City, New Orleans. The Band and its style of traditional Dixieland Jazz continues to grow in popularity largely due to the capable direction and dedication of this versatile musician & band leader. The Honeywell name has, since the early days of our Jazz Club on Marine Drive, become synonymous with Traditional Jazz and its development in our beautiful part of the world. Many have helped along the way to promote and support our organization and the Band, but Rice Honeywell has been the motivation for it all to happen. We all thank him for the fun we've had and for the memories that linger on. The new Millennium is waiting for you, Rice!

After some five months of trial and error at the Oasis, a growing number of supporters as well as the small group of founding members who made up our casual, non-constituted Jazz Club, opted to become a formal entity with a distinct existence and specific objectives to benefit an established dues paying membership. The White Rock Traditional Jazz Society was then duly incorporated and officially registered under the Society Act of the Province of British Columbia. The date was mid-April 1991. An open invitation to membership was then presented to the general public. It was favorably responded to and is on-going. It has been a successful achievement. And so a mighty Oak from a little acorn grew!

Admittedly, in the early stages progress for the Society was slow. We were still cutting our teeth. Money was sorely needed to continue our fun-filled weekly Jazz Club sessions at the Oasis. It was necessary and fair to give monetary support to the members of our new Red Beans and Rice Jazz Band in exchange for their continuing support of us. To the rescue came a small number of dedicated Jazz enthusiasts who pumped in some cash as seed money and planted the corn. These were the true founding members. Their names, by request, are to remain anonymous. Our tenure at the Oasis continued for approximately two years. It was terminated when the restaurant was closed. However, it really had become time to move on as the walls in the cozy Club were beginning to bulge with Jazz fans. Naturally, there were some regrets in leaving as those were fun times. Happy Dixieland Jazz had arrived at the Oasis in White Rock and we have been marching in with the Saints ever since! But it's always good to remember our humble beginnings and to pay tribute to those to whom we owe so much for the pleasure we've had and continue to have. Howard and Pat Letroy will be remembered as the original "Friends of Jazz" in White Rock. They were great hosts, at the Oasis, friendly and co-operative at all times and always involved as part of the Jazz crowd. In the time-consuming and complex process of establishing the White Rock Traditional Jazz Society, our grateful thanks and appreciation must go to some special others. First to Rice and Helen Honeywell who provided the inspiration and initiative to create this energetic and beneficial organization, and next to Carolyn Hansen, long-time former President, for her untiring efforts to further the aims and objectives of the organization and to promote interest in our kind of music. She has given so much of herself in time and energy. She is a role model for us all.

It is nearing time to raise our glasses in a toast to the end of another year of enjoyable Dixieland music, the end of a decade, the end of the twentieth century. As you enter the new Millennium, keep well, keep jazzin', keep happy with happy music. The world of music is a beautiful world. Immerse yourself in it!

Scott Robertson's *Swing* **PATROL** plays great tunes from the New Orleans jazz repertoire as well as a swinging variety of tunes inspired by the sound of the 1930's/40's small groups.

The band's name comes from a second world war Canadian Auxiliary Services orchestra of the same name. Robertson's father was one of their overseas truck drivers. Scott grew up listening to his Dad's stories of the fabulous musicians along with his record collection of the Swing era.

The current incarnation of *Swing* **PATROL** began in 2008 with a recording of the same name. It featured Scott on drums, Ron Thompson on guitar, Evan Arntzen on saxophone and clarinet, Bria Skonberg on vocals and trumpet and Danny Parker & Brent Gubbels sharing duties on bass. The band played a CD release party in November of the same year and it has been active ever since.

Scott works closely with guitarist Ron Thompson on all the music. Aside from being a great guitarist, Ron is a skilled arranger. Together, they always strive to stay true to the original style of the tune chosen.

The personnel in the band vary from one performance to another. Aside from the personnel on the recording, regulars in the band line up have included:



- Wynston Minckler, Casey Tolhurst and Jennifer Hodge on bass
- Glen Tremblay and Bonnie Northgraves on trumpet and vocals
- Ben Henriques and Ben MacRae on reeds.
- Don Ogilvie on guitar

In 2012, thanks to the kind support of the White Rock Traditional Jazz Society,

Swing Patrol conducted two workshops in the Surrey School district. The band was able to perform for and educate an enthusiastic group of young people in the art of early jazz. The Pender Music Society has also sponsored the band to conduct workshops for high school students in 2012 and 2017.

The band has played many family friendly events, swing dances, jazz festivals, corporate events and of course, the White Rock Traditional Jazz society. Pictures, video clips and CDs are all available through Scott's website, www.scottondrums.com If you have a Facebook account, be sure to "like" Scott-Robertson-Bands.



The Alan Matheson University Trad Band Challenge 2017

For a first attempt at this event, it turned out pretty well. Alan Matheson spent countless hours trying to get university bandmasters and music teachers involved. These institutions have their own agenda and trying to get them to participate was very difficult. The only way in was for Alan Matheson and myself to talk directly to some young band leaders that we knew were at university, and get them to put together bands containing young musicians already familiar with trad jazz. We struck gold and have to thank Lynn Stewart from VCC, who worked hard and long to put a band together, the Teagardeners, with some very good young musicians, and Ben MacRae from Capilano University, who also responded likewise, with his Ridge Drive Ramblers.

The competition included a one-day workshop at VCC, where Alan managed to get the use of the facility free of charge for this event. This was an extremely generous gesture, as not only did we get the facility free but also the use of their equipment. They even had a lunch facility open for us. We cannot thank them enough, for without them the event would not have been able to take place. This gesture saved hundreds of dollars and a whole pile of stress in travel arrangements, as VCC is centrally located and convenient for other universities taking part. The workshop was an outstanding success with Alan heading up an experienced and knowledgeable Faculty consisting of Craig Scott, Josh Roberts, Wynston Minckler, and Rob McKenzie.

These two bands competed against each other at the club on Sunday, October 15, 2017. They played four numbers each with VCC playing first. The reception of these bands by the membership attending the event was outstanding, and they both performed to a very high level of expertise. The judges for this event were myself, Dave Ayton and Gerry Green. Dave Ayton instructed us how to use the "Adjudication rubrics for the *Essentially Ellington High School Band Competition*." The VCC band, under the leadership of Lynn Stewart on piano and vocals, played a selection of well-known traditional jazz tunes and played them with enthusiasm and a high level of excellence. This was indeed a tough act to follow. Ben MacRae had also put a top level band together, which eventually won the event, but it was very close indeed. Young Trevor Whitridge playing the trumpet with Ben's band won the best musician award. We must mention Ben MacRae, Sebastian Chamney playing the guitar with Lynn's band, and Coal Shultis on tenor sax. These young players made it a very difficult job to choose a winner. Trevor plays with such style and enthusiasm with some excellent solos. We are hoping to see a lot more of Trevor and all these young musicians at the club in the future.

Hopefully, if things go according to plan, in 2018 we will get more universities involved and expand the event. This event has had some effect on Capilano University, as they hosted a free celebration lunch-time concert in honor of Ben's band at 11:30 am on Wednesday, November 15. Both bands will also be playing at the club in 2018.

A final thanks to all the people involved in putting this event on, it was a lot of work, but I think the future of the club will depend on these kinds of events to keep our type of music alive.

...Dave Roper

Ridge Drive Ramblers from Capilano University
Alan Matheson Trophy Winners 2017

Will Friesen, drums
Cole Smith, guitar
Ben MacRae,
Marcos Flo, string bass
Aaron Lee, trombone
Trevor Whitridge, trumpet
Coal Shultis, tenor sax



Elaine Burton reminisces...



I've had music in my life forever, as my father played the violin, guitar, banjo, and piano. He tried to teach me the violin but this was not successful. I always loved big band music, and didn't realize that jazz was rather something different. I went travelling in my late twenties and lived and worked in Sydney, Australia for nearly nine months. One day I went walking along Bondi Beach and met a girl (lady) I knew in Vancouver. She was living about 10 minutes by bus from me. One evening I met up with her and we went into the center of Sydney to a lounge to listen to a band. You had to buy something to eat to get in. It was a jazz band called Mr. Crow playing - a lot of you will know this name. This band came to the Vancouver area and played at jazz festivals, I think twice at the Chilliwack festival. Anyhow, in Sydney I sat there and said "Wow, this is my kind of music". Later, back living in Vancouver, I went to Yellow Point Lodge on Vancouver Island. There I got talking to a man and we discussed where a single person could go out for an evening. He asked if I had ever been to the Hot Jazz Club on Broadway near Main Street and said it was a good club for singles, especially if I liked jazz. I got a girlfriend to go with me, this was the start of a long and happy relationship. This became like a second family. The Hot Jazz Club was even better when they moved a few blocks North on Main Street where there was a sprung dance floor. I met people there that I traveled with to jazz festivals and cruises. About the time that I moved to the White Rock area, the Hot Jazz Club had problems with where they were renting. Susan Enefer found out that a band (Red Beans and Rice) was playing on the waterfront in White Rock and we drove out and enjoyed an afternoon of jazz. I've been enjoying jazz with the White Rock Traditional Jazz Club at the Pink Palace and now the Legion 240. I've had a turn on the executive, and enjoyed it. Now I'm happy that people keep volunteering to run the club, especially people with good knowledge of jazz music.

Remembering Bev Temp...

We are sad to report that long-time jazz fan and former WRTJS board member **Bev Temp** passed away suddenly at home December 16 at the age of 70. Bev was a familiar sight on our dance floor...she just loved to dance, with or without a partner. Bev was also a director of the Vancouver Dixieland Jazz Society in its early days in the 1990s. She liked to travel to jazz festivals - Seaside, San Diego, Lacey, Penticton - and was also a regular at the Puget Sound Traditional Jazz Society events in Seattle, where she had many jazz friends. We will all miss her smiling face and fun-loving personality and extend our condolences to her family and friends. Click [here](#) to read her obituary in *The Vancouver Sun*. If you wish to make a donation in Bev's name, please make your cheque out to the White Rock Traditional Jazz Society and mail it to the address below or make a direct donation at one of our Sunday dances. Thank you.



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White Rock Traditional Jazz Society Membership

To maintain our status as a non-profit organization we need your support. By paying annual dues of \$15 per person you will be a member in good standing under our bylaws, qualifying you to attend the Annual General Meeting and vote; you will receive a member admission discount to all events and our newsletter, the *White Rock Rag*. Membership dues are effective January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

Your membership fees assist us in covering a variety of expenses, including a backup fund for band costs, website and Facebook maintenance, public liability insurance, office supplies, piano tuning, advertising, promotions, special event decorations/treats. The weekly 50/50 fund helps to support our Youth Jazz program, which also relies on private donations and fundraising events.

Please pay your dues at one of our weekly sessions or download the form below and mail it, together with your cheque payable to the White Rock Traditional Jazz Society, to the address on the form. You will receive a receipt and a membership card.

If you submit a **new** membership application at the door, you will get in FREE that day.

White Rock Traditional Jazz Society

Membership Application

PO Box 71555, Hillcrest RPO, 1463 Johnston Road, White Rock BC V4B 5J5

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____

Prov/State _____ P Code/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Donation: To keep traditional jazz alive in White Rock I have enclosed a cheque for _____ to support youth music.

Volunteering: My areas of interest are: _____

Suggestions for our club: _____

How did you find out about us?

Newspaper _____ Website _____ Facebook _____

Friend _____ Other _____ Date: _____