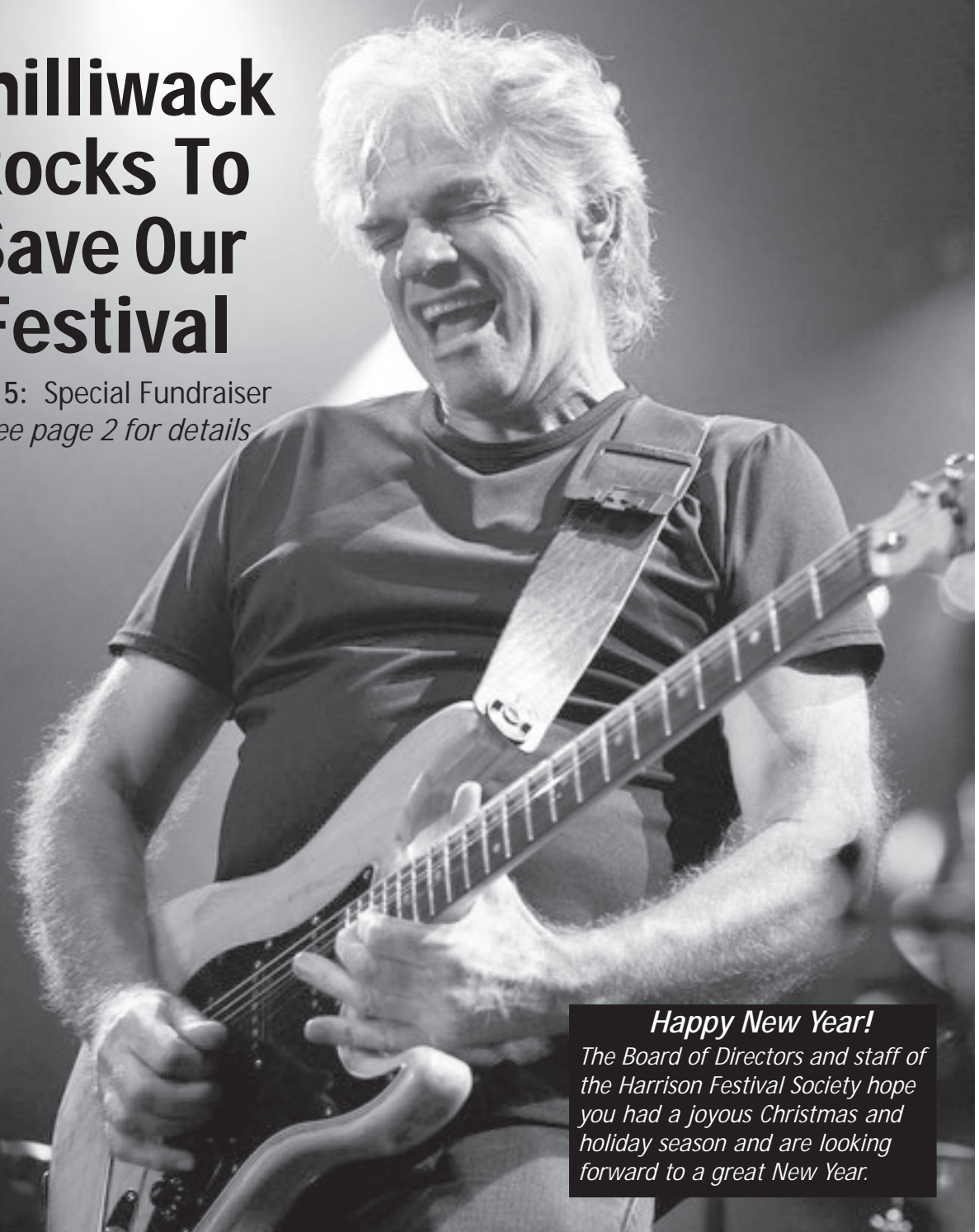




# Chilliwack Rocks To Save Our Festival

May 5: Special Fundraiser  
*- see page 2 for details*



### *Happy New Year!*

*The Board of Directors and staff of the Harrison Festival Society hope you had a joyous Christmas and holiday season and are looking forward to a great New Year.*

## SOCIETY NEWS

### The Future of Our Festival

Over the next twelve months the Harrison Festival Society will face the most serious financial challenges of its thirty four year history. As a result of reduced support for arts and culture, primarily by the Provincial Government, the future of the Harrison Festival as well as many other organizations is in jeopardy.

Although there are a number of areas of concern, including the cancellation of a key Canada Council program, the most critical blow comes from the changes to the eligibility criteria for Charitable Gaming funds. In 2009 the Provincial Government radically changed the eligibility criteria resulting in a large number of community groups no longer being eligible for Gaming monies. At the same time funding to eligible groups was significantly cut. This was done despite the fact that Gaming revenue was growing to unprecedented levels.

The Harrison Festival Society has received Gaming funding since 1989. Our latest three year agreement for funding runs from April 2010 to April 1, 2012. The Society received \$80,500 per year under the terms of this agreement; however, under the new criteria the Festival Society is now ineligible for any Gaming funding. When our agreement runs out in March we will receive nothing.

The Provincial Government established a Review Committee to look at all aspects of Community Gaming Grants including which organizations should be eligible. (Thank you to everyone who wrote to the Gaming Grant Review committee on our behalf) On October 31 the Review Committee submitted their report to the Government and although we know that the report's recommendations were encouraging from the Festival's point of view we have no idea what the Government is going to do with these recommendations.

We will be able to operate through our current fiscal year (September 2011 – August 2012). As our Gaming Agreement does not end until March 2012, we have half a year's worth of Gaming funds. This combined with the money we have been able to put away in a rainy day fund over the past ten years, should enable us to continue business as usual through the July Festival and the end of our current fiscal year. However, unless some

thing changes we will be in trouble as of September 2012 as we will have used up our surplus.

We are leaving no stone unturned in looking for ways to keep the Festival Society going, including holding out hope that the Provincial Government will act on the Gaming Review Report's recommendations.

**We are in need of your support like never before. You can show your support in three ways:**

#### 1. Become a Family Member

This is the official launch of our 2012 Family Membership campaign and the membership brochure is included with this mail out. As stated in the brochure; when you join the Harrison Festival Family your support goes well beyond a financial contribution; you demonstrate to governments, other funding agencies and the general public that there are people who care about arts and culture in their community.

A reminder that all 2010 Family Members are welcome at the Festival Society's Annual General Meeting, Thursday, January 26, 2011 at 4:30pm at the Festival Society office in Harrison.

#### 2. Come to the shows

Our heart and soul is live music and the best way to keep the Festival Society vibrant is to come to shows. There are five shows scheduled between January and April (see next page), so get your tickets and enjoy an evening of great live music in our small, relaxed venue.



#### 3. Join us for a Fund Raiser Saturday, May 5

Join us for an intimate evening with west coast rock legends **Chilliwack**.

Beginning in the late 1960s Chilliwack released 12 albums over 15 years, producing numerous Canadian and international hits including Lonesome Mary, Fly at Night and My Girl (gone gone gone) and earning fifteen gold and platinum albums.

Now in their 41st year, Bill Henderson and the band sounds better than ever. This event is a rare opportunity to see Chilliwack in our small intimate venue as well as provide much needed support to the Harrison Festival Society.

Tickets are \$75.00 plus hst. A \$30.00 tax receipt will be issued with each ticket. With the purchase of eight tickets your table will be reserved; all other seating is general admission.

In addition to the music the evening will include a silent auction and door prizes and appetizers and refreshments will be served.

The event takes place Saturday, May 5 with the doors opening at 7:30pm and the music beginning at 9:00pm.

### Presenter of the Year Award

At their recent conference in Toronto the Canadian Arts Presenting Association presented our Artist Director, Phyllis Stenson with their Presenter of the Year Award in recognition for many years of outstanding programming over the past three decades. Erin Benjamin, Executive Director of the Association stated that "Phyllis has a reputation across the country for innovative and diverse programming and for the strong connections she and the Harrison Festival have developed with local communities."



Of receiving the award Stenson says "it is a great honour to be recognized by your peers and nice to know that all the hard work does not go unnoticed. The Harrison Festival is

about more than booking performers; it has to do with community"

### 2011 Family Member Draw

We are pleased to announce that Astrid Beugeling and Dave Stephen of Chilliwack are the winners of the 2011 Family Member draw. They win a pair of tickets to all Festival Society events in 2012 and one pass to the summer Festival. Thanks to all who joined the Harrison Festival Family, your support is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

## COMING EVENTS

### Season of Performing Arts

All Concerts - Harrison Memorial Hall • 8pm



#### January 28: THE BREAKMEN

What started out as adventurous bluegrass quartet has fast become a sharply focused roots music outfit that owes as much to The Band and Blue Rodeo as it does to John Hartford and Bill Monroe. Last year the group earned two nominations at the Canadian Folk Music Awards and won the Vox Pop Award for "Americana Album of the Year" at the Independent Music Awards.

#### February 11:

#### Double Bill - LOCARNO & BABE GURR

Vancouver Latin outfit Locarno is lead by Tom Landa (The Paperboys). Tom has created music influenced by Mexico and Vancouver, using some of the best musicians in the city. Also part of this Double Bill is award winning singer/songwriter Babe Gurr, who has recently added elements of World Music to her sound. Celebrate Valentine's Day with Babe's beautiful voice and Tom's hot romantic music from South of the Border.



**March 3:  
GARY COMEAU  
& THE VOODOO  
ALLSTARS**

As an East Coast Acadian, Gary Comeau carries the roots of Cajun music in his blood. Based in Vancouver for years now, Gary is one of the most popular BC performers. His approach to life, the World and his music is summed up by his motto: "It's Gonna' be a Party!"



**March 17:  
TIM READMAN & OUT OF THE GREEN**



For St. Patrick's Day, a bit of traditional music from Ireland and the UK. Vancouver's Celtic and English Folk music Godfather Tim Readman will bring his band, Out of the Green, featuring some of Vancouver's best Celtic musicians including the award winning fiddler Shona La Mottee. Tim last played Harrison, backing up Shona on guitar and vocals.

Shona La Mottee. Tim last played Harrison, backing up Shona on guitar and vocals.

**April 14: JESSE PETERS TRIO**

A major hit at the 33rd Harrison Festival's Beach Stage, Jesse Peters and his hot band sang and played with incredible energy and humour. One of the hottest musicians in Canada, he is a highly regarded Jazz pianist and founder of the influential Peters Drury Trio. Jesse is also a well regarded soul singer, who had a hit as his alter-ego Paramedic.



**34<sup>th</sup> Harrison Festival**

Planning is well underway for the 34th Harrison Festival of the Arts, July 7-15, 2012.

A couple of very special performers have been contacted, and we will update you as we hear back from them. Bands confirmed so far include: **Pura Fe (Ulali)** a First Nations Blues



performer, Quebec traditionalists MAZ, Blues band the 24th Street Wailers and a hot Cuban combo called Battle of Santiago. Blues/Roots performers Rick Fines and Suzie Vinnick will perform, as will cellist Kevin Fox and a wild vaudeville group called **Maria in the Shower!**

A special treat this year will be a concert by Ireland's hottest young fiddler **Niamh ni Charra** and her band.



Keep an eye on our website and our Facebook page for more details.

**Contact**

**Tickets:**  
Phone - (604)796-3664 (mc, amex, visa)  
On-line - [www.harrisonfestival.com](http://www.harrisonfestival.com)  
In Person - Ranger Station Art Gallery (98 Rockwell Dr.) or the Agassiz Shoppers Drugmart 3 weeks prior to show.

**Contact:**  
Harrison Festival Society • Box 399, 98 Rockwell Drive, Harrison Hot Springs, B.C. Canada, V0M 1K0  
(604) 796-3664 • [info@harrisonfestival.com](mailto:info@harrisonfestival.com)

Best Regards, Phyllis, Ed, & Kev