



*Publisher/Editor in Chief—Bruce Hall*      Volume 87 Number 7 — August 2023 / September 2023

## **The First Annual Grand River Blues Award!**



George White (left) &  
Dennis Cuomo (right)

*The Grand River Blues Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have contributed to blues music or the growth of blues in the region.*

2023 Award Recipients – George White and Dennis Cuomo, Founders, Grand River Blues Camp

The first annual Grand River Blues Award winners have been announced – George White and Dennis Cuomo, founders of the Grand River Blues Camp have been selected to receive the award for 2023. Their efforts in starting the Grand River Blues Camp and growing it to a music experience that has attracted young musicians locally and from as far abroad as Louisiana and Massachusetts, has been recognized by Blues Societies across the country as a major contributor to the growth of blues in our region.

"I am pleased that George and I have been recognized by the Grand River Blues Society as co-recipients of the 1st annual Grand River Blues Award", said Dennis Cuomo when asked about winning the award. "It's always been about the kids and providing them with the opportunity to learn and perform. We couldn't have done it without the backing of the Society, our volunteers and sponsors, and especially without the efforts and dedication of the musicians who have mentored our campers over the past 14 years."

"It's all worthwhile to see the smile on everyone's face at the performance", added George.

Continued on next page ...

## Recognition Awarded

*This article is excerpted and amended from a 2019 GRBS Newsletter article by Moochie Nash on the GRBS Youth Blues Camp.*

In 2019, I interviewed George White, and Don Featherstone long-time musical director for a story on the Camp. George and Don talked a lot about community and about how the Camp is possible because of the community out of which it arose. It's a Sunday afternoon, a couple of weeks after the Camp's run and I'm volunteering at the fundraising table for a local cause. I'm at Ethel's lounge with about 400 people, listening to at least 10 bands, killing it for charity. They're all here because something needed to be done someone needed remembering, celebrating, and sending off, and so they came. All of them play for free because it needed doing. These are busy people. But something needed doing. If there's one thing I learned from George and Don, it's that this community, the Blues community of KW, is full of people you can count on. It occurred to me that what I'm witnessing today at Ethel's, is exactly what George and Don were talking about ... and through the GRBS Youth Blues Camp, George and Dennis are nurturing the next generation of community.

Fourteen years ago, George, and Dennis fashioned the Grand River Blues Camp after the camp at the Montreal Jazz Festival. The major difference being that you don't have to audition for Grand River Blues Camp, everybody gets in. Kids from 12 to 18, and even that's not hard and fast, come from KW and all-over North America to learn how to play the Blues in a band context, for 4 days, every August. They are taught how to play songs (about 25 to 30 of them!) with fellow musicians, in preparation for a 2-hour performance, opening day of the TD Kitchener Blues Festival. They learn how to play off one another, how to support one another, how to encourage one another, and how to take a bow. The culminating moment for the campers and the teachers; frankly for everyone's who's worked alongside, shoulder-to-shoulder, and/or behind the scenes at the Camp, is the Friday performance at the TD Kitchener Blues Festival's Europro Stage. The Grand River Blues Camp Jam launches the 3-day festival and as George and Dennis agree, it is this performance opportunity that catapults the Camp into another level.

At the 2017 Toronto Blues Summit special working sessions, those in attendance from Blues societies across Canada and USA found out that the Grand River Blues Camp is frankly without compare across the country. The Camp is extraordinary! It attracts students, mostly from the area, but also into the United States (and especially from the south where Blues has long mattered). The Camp has been a springboard for several former students, launching their professional careers in the music industry: Matt Weidinger, Joanna Pavia, Collin White, and Josh David, to name a few. The Camp teachers teach young musicians far more than just

Continued on next page ...

## Recognition Awarded

how to play an instrument. The teachers don't just help the kids learn to play the song set, they also teach them how to play as a band, stage presence, performance etiquette, and musicianship. The skills learned at the camp are easily transferable to other aspects of these young peoples' lives.

As Janet Wendell and Neil Tarswell, Camp Directors who volunteer at the Camp, have observed, the skills taught here improve self-confidence, collaborative skills, and social skills; they teach the students how to work as member of a team and to collaborate - all skills to be used in all avenues of their young lives and into the adulthood. Over the years more than one student has told George, "The Camp changed my life!" And it's easy to see why. There is an unspoken philosophy amongst the Camp's teachers. As Don notes, "music is not a competition. It's a creative act, a creative process. This isn't American Idol, there are no winners and losers here." Everybody contributes, everybody succeeds, it's a community production. As one camper noted on performance days, "it's good to have a community to start out our Blues careers with." If the teachers wonder if they are building the next generation of - as Don says, "real musicians" - I'd say things look pretty solid.

One of the long-time Camp musicians, and current music director, John McKinley says, "we're not teachers, we're musicians, so we're going to give it to them straight." This "straight" talk from the likes of John Lee, Cheryl Lescom, Chuckee Zehr, Don Featherstone, Dylan Wickens, Al Richardson, Mike Rajna and Spencer MacKenzie (Camp instructors 2023), comes from folks who live the biz, have worked hard and played hard. They are keen to pass this on to the campers. According to George and Don, they all feel immense pride in the individual successes of each teen at the final performance. For Don, it's a bit altruistic, "it's your job to give back, and because it's creative, because it's music, you're picking people up."

George and Dennis imagined the Camp over fourteen years ago. To this day, as volunteers, they administer its logistics, support its teachers and interns, and fuel the local connections that provide funding, food and venues for the camp and its youth. With over 50 participants in attendance, returnees in intern roles and, the practicalities of insurance, equipment, meals, space and so forth, this is a BIG undertaking.

But for George and Dennis and the volunteers, the Grand River Blues Camp is not a burden, this is not work. This is a passion.

Check out this video that explores the [Grand River Blues Camp Experience](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6f4QZFafWfg)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6f4QZFafWfg>



## Patrick Fockler Going to IBC Memphis 2024



Congratulations Patrick Fockler from Newmarket! 2024 Grand River Blues Society representing Solo Act from our Road to Memphis Competition at The Front Porch & Southern Kitchen Langton.

The talent on that funky stage from this genuinely talented guitarist, singer and songwriter was top shelf as were all the phenomenal 7 other Solo Acts. The five esteemed judges had the difficult task in scoring the acts. A big thank you to the sold-out show of Blues Fans who cheered on all the acts to support by offsetting some of Pat's travel expenses to Memphis TN in early 2024.

The Langton Blues Joint staff were run off their feet for over 5 hours and Connie's staff deserve appreciation as well with the fantastic sound and lighting from Murray Williams.

Thank you so much for all the volunteers who pitched in to keep the show from not going off the rails. Live Music is back big time and venues and musicians deserve your enthusiastic support. Come get some soon!

Photo by Marion G





# The Trainwrecks to be Showcased in Memphis @ IBC



The Trainwrecks are a Blues focused band that are made up of local high school students from Kitchener - Waterloo. These talented teens found each other through the Grand River Blues Camp and are excited to be able to share their love of the blues.

Together they won the Kitchener Blues Festivals 'Youth Legacy" contest and also recorded their first single, a cover of "Somethings Got A Hold of Me." The Trainwrecks give a fresh take on Blues classics, and you can see them perform live at the Kitchener Blues Festival, Belmont Bestival and are also excited to represent the Grand River Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis as Youth participants!

You can find them on Instagram here: <https://www.instagram.com/the.trainwrecks>



## The trainwrecks

Live at the  
Kitchener Blues Fest

Saturday August 12  
@12 Noon



City Hall  
Main stage

# Patrick Monaghan

## Achievements

- Hosted a Blues Show called The Buckslide Blues Cruise on 100.9 CKHA Haliburton.
- 2020 NCRA award winning show for Best Jazz/Blues Show in Canada.
- President of the Highlands Buckslide Blues Society.
- MC work at many Southern Ontario festivals & events.
- Artistic Director for the Monarchs & Music Blues Festival in Haliburton.
- Past assistant to the Artistic Director at the Wasaga Beach Blues Festival for 2 years.
- Booked bands throughout the Kawartha & Huntsville area for several years.
- Toronto Blues Society Blues Booster of the Year Award.



This is hard to believe. If you knew Patrick, you experienced his huge smile and saw his thumbs up photos and if fortunate you were in the photo with him both of you giving the big thumbs up. You had to admire his dedication to, opinions about, knowledge of and rarely duplicated commitment to The Blues. Patrick loved experiencing and supporting the live music scene. If he couldn't find anyone to travel with to share in his numerous trips he just head out himself each time like a gypsy.

He joined the Grand River Blues Society at the beginning 20 years ago and kept his membership active each year. He volunteered so many times to Judge the GRBS Road to Memphis Competitions and then travelled to Memphis to support the representing acts. He was one of a kind. Patrick was one of the kindest, nicest person you'd ever have the privilege to know. This truly is a sad moment for our tight knit Blues community.

Rest in Peace our Blues Brother.





## Chuck Jackson Blues Legend

For over 50 years of live musical performance and serving as a founder and director of the Tim Horton's Southside Shuffle for 25 years, Chuck Jackson meets the strict mandate to receive this distinction.

In being recognized as a “Blues Legend”, Jackson has utilized his automatic entitlement to recognize Richard “Hock” Walsh and Jane Vasey for the “Blues Legacy” distinction.

All artists who have been recognized with this distinction will receive written recognition that will be accessible to everyone worldwide via the Blues and Roots Radio website in the upcoming weeks. This initiative strives to educate others about the musicians who have made an impact in the Canadian Blues Collective, and the musicians themselves are the best way to do it.

In addition to being recognized as a “Blues Legend” and choosing other artists to be recognized for the “Blues Legacy” distinction, Chuck Jackson will be presented with a physical award in person on August 17th at the Beggars Blues Banquet in Port Credit, Ontario. Thanks to Chuck Jackson for his significant contributions to the Canadian Blues music Collective - a Blues Legend indeed!

ERIN McCALLUM  
BLUES  
Legend  
& Legacy  
DISTINCTION

For over 50 years of live musical performance, and serving as a founder and director of the Southside Shuffle for 25 years

**Chuck Jackson**  
is recognized with the distinction of  
**Blues Legend**

[www.bluesandrootsradio.com](http://www.bluesandrootsradio.com)





# Willy A's Views and Music Reviews

## Thorbjørn Risager & The Black Tornado: Blues Navigation (Provogue/Mascot Label)



Here we are well into the summer, which seems to just fly by at breakneck speed. July is now but a past memory, yet for Blues lovers in southwestern Ontario, August holds the excitement and anticipation of the always interesting and eclectic, **T D Kitchener**

**Blues Festival (Aug 10 – 13)**. The festival's Music Director, **Claude Cloutier**, never ceases to amaze me with the perfect balance of familiar and lesser known artists and this year is shaping up to be no different. I rarely suggest bands to him, but in February I sent a message saying you might want to consider this group for a future festival. Low and behold, little did I know that they were already booked for the 2023 festival. Claude Cloutier definitely has his finger on the Blues/music pulse.

Did the Blues begin on the shores of Denmark? Well for **Thorbjørn Risager** it certainly did. Beginning in 2003 as the **Thorbjørn Risager Blue 7**, a cover tunes bar band in his hometown of **Jyllinge, Denmark**, the band has steadily risen in popularity and with much acclaim, to be a multi award winning and sought after Blues group on the European scene. Claiming **2 Danish Music Awards, European Best Band Awards and 2 German Record Critic's Awards**, has propelled this band forward for the past **twenty years**. The name change to the Black Tornado occurred in 2014. Risager is a multi- instrumentalist and only realized his song writing ability, after studying at the Copenhagen Rhythmic Music Conservatory. Much of the song material for the band is Risager composed and I find that structurally and lyrically his original songs ring with the familiarity of a long time favourites (i.e. Haven't I heard this before?). The musicians of **Black Tornado** are stellar players and solos ooze with creativity.

**"Navigation Blues"**, their latest recording, surprisingly begins with the slow, 12 bar title track. It's surprising because most bands prefer an album to begin with an up tempo rocker to grab your attention. But this track, slow or not, is far from mundane. They inject some subtle guitar and keyboard riffs, until the closing stinging guitar solo that will knock your socks off. Then it soulfully slows to the fadeout.

The pace picks up with **"Watch the Sun Go Down"**. It's a simple lyrically driven piece, to remind us that a beautiful sunset can trump some of our own material trappings we covet in our day to day lives. I should point out here that Risager's song writing draws heavily on his respect for not just Blues but Pop music as well, from his early Rock influences. You might just notice a Dire Straits groove in this one. I sure did.

Continued on next page ...



## **Thorbjorn Risager & The Black Tornado: Blues Navigation (Provogue/Mascot Label)**

“**The Way You Make Me Feel**” slows the tempo once again, with the horns and background vocalists combining to conjure up a going back to church, call and response love affirmation.

With the rocker; “**Fire Inside**”, you can once again notice the Rock influences that Risager has drawn from, to concoct his own Danish musical stew for this album. Did I detect a couple of **Stones riffs**? Sure did and they’re as sweet as Brown Sugar or a Honky Tonk Woman.

Forget that this recording is not just pure Blues. I’m sure you’ve gathered that by now. But rather, it’s a musical shopping cart that gathers: Pop, Gospel, Rock and some Soul influences in all their flavours to be consumed by the listener. “**Blue Lullaby**” for example, exposes a melodic reflection on relationship unpredictability, framed in a Hammond blanket of uncertainty. While “**Taking the Good with The Bad**” assures us he’s trying maintain that life balance and his arrangement utilizes choral injections plus subtle horn lines that never overpower the lead vocal. Toss in a refreshing, New Orleans style keyboard solo and this becomes a perfect antidote to deal with “Blue Lullaby”.

Other cuts of interest are “**Time**”; reminding us of how it’s a constant changer in all our lives and whether good, bad or seemingly inconsequential at the moment, you can’t relive what’s been lost in time. Once again, the lyrics are deep and steeped in sensitivity. Appropriately, that negative feeling of lost time can sometimes be avoided if we get “**Something to Hold on To**”. The band sits this one out and Risager acoustically transports us back to an intimate coffee house from our past; possibly **Yorkville Village in Toronto** or in his case, one in Jyllinge, Demark (30 Km from Copenhagen).

There are other tracks that warrant attention, but let’s just say Risager has the knack for writing incredibly varied songs that appeal to many diverse music fans. To some this might seem counterproductive to being taken as a serious Blues band. But not so; in today’s world, bands continue to retrace supposed musical boundaries. This band has a vision and continues to just nail the concept and the process. They are a perfect fit for our always diverse festival. Try to catch them at the upcoming, Kitchener Blues Fest, on the **Europro Stage, Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM**. By the end of their show, I’m hoping your levels of enjoyment and interest will mirror mine.

WEBSITE: [Risager.info](http://Risager.info)



# TD Kitchener Blues Festival 2023

## Thursday, August 10

YNC Stage  
(City Hall)

Europro Stage  
(King and  
Frederick)

OLG Stage  
(Victoria  
Park)

Children's  
Stage (Clock  
Tower)



7 pm			Digging Roots 7:00 to 8:30	
8 pm				
9 pm				
10 pm			Spin Doctors 9:15 to 11:00	
11 pm				

Schedule designed by Terry Labach

Lineup subject to change

## Friday, August 11

YNC Stage  
(City Hall)

Europro Stage  
(King and  
Frederick)

OLG Stage  
(Victoria  
Park)

Children's  
Stage (Clock  
Tower)

## Friday August 11

**12 Bar Blues (all shows start at 11:00 pm)**

- David Gogo @ Bobby O'Brien's
- Ginger St. James Duo @ Winelogy
- The Jacks @ Crabby Joe's
- Justin Saladino @ TWH Social
- Alfie Smith @ Coop Wicked Chicken
- Endrick & the Sandwiches @ The Hub
- Ben Rollo (Duo) @ Sugar Run
- Madison Galloway (Duo) @ The Rick Uncle Tavern
- Dwayne LaForme Boogie Blues @ McCabe's
- Sean Pinchin @ Falls Road Irish Pub

3 pm		GRBS Blues Camp 3:00 to 5:00		
4 pm				
5 pm				
6 pm	Miss Angel and the Homewreckers 6:00 to 7:00	Dwayne LaForme's Boogie Blues 5:45 to 6:45	Justin Sal- adino Band 5:30 to 6:30	
7 pm				
8 pm	Endrick & the Sandwiches 7:30 to 8:45	David Gogo 7:15 to 8:45	Steve Strong- man Band 7:00 to 8:30	
9 pm				
10 pm	I Mother Earth 9:30 to 11:00	Dawn Tyler Watson 9:30 to 11:00	Get Back - The rooftop concert The Beatles never gave 9:00 to 11:00	
11 pm				

# TD Kitchener Blues Festival 2023

## Saturday, August 12

	YNC Stage (City Hall)	Europro Stage (King and Frederick)	OLG Stage (Victoria Park)	Children's Stage (Clock Tower)
12 pm	Youth Legacy Challenge The Trainwrecks 12:00 to 1:00		The Tonewheels 12:00 to 1:00	
1 pm		Brooke Blackburn 12:30 to 1:30		John McKinley 1:00 to 1:50pm
2 pm	Weber Brothers 1:30 to 3:00	McKenna Moonah Blues Duo 2:00 to 3:00	Patrick Alexandre 1:30 to 2:45	Erick Traplin 2:20 to 3:10pm
3 pm				
4 pm	Men With- out Hats 3:30 to 5:00	Spencer Mackenzie 3:30 to 5:00	Albert Cummings 3:15 to 4:45	Sandy Mac- Donald 3:40 to 4:30pm
5 pm				
6 pm	Errol Black- wood Injah Band 5:30 to 7:00	Samantha Martin and Delta Sugar 5:30 to 7:00	The Grapes of Wrath 5:15 to 6:45	
7 pm				
8 pm	MonkeyJunk 7:30 to 8:45	Thorbjorn Risager & The Black Tornado 7:30 to 9:00	Samantha Fish 7:15 to 8:45	
9 pm				
10 pm	A Flock of Seagulls 9:30 to 11:00	Mr. Sipp 9:30 to 11:00	Dandy Warhols 9:30 to 11:00	
11 pm				

## Sunday, August 13

### Workshop Stages

- 1pm: Remembering Mendelson Joe @ The Hub
- 1pm: Remembering Ronnie Hawkins @ Bobby O'Brien's
- 3pm: Redboine by Patrick Alexandre @ The Hub
- 4pm: Barrelhouse, Boogie & Blues @ Bobby O'Brien's

### 12 Bar Blues

- 6:30pm: Mike McDonald's Monster Jam @ Bobby O'Brien's

## Saturday, August 12

### Workshop Stages

- 1pm: The Backdoor @ The Hub
- 2pm: When Will I Be Loved: The Songs of Linda Ronstadt @ Bobby O'Brien's
- 3pm: Playing Blues Harmonica @ The Hub
- 4pm: Blow by Blow: Music of Jeff Beck @ Bobby O'Brien's

### 12 Bar Blues (all shows start at 11:00 pm)

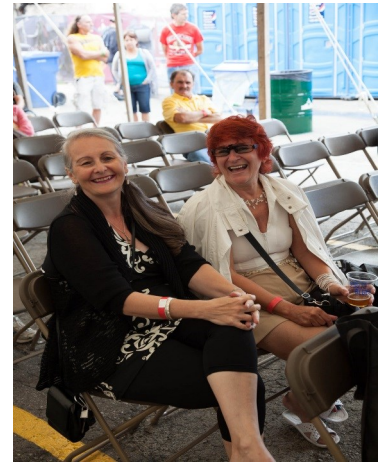
- Spencer Mackenzie @ Bobby O'Brien's
- Silvia Dee & The Boyfriend @ Winelogy
- Sean Pinchin @ Crabby Joe's
- Frank Cosentino Band @ TWH Social
- Craig McNair & Juneyt @ Coop Wicked Chicken
- Albert Cummings @ The Hub
- Brooke Blackburn @ Sugar Run
- Harrison Kennedy @ The Rick Uncle Tavern
- Mike McKenna & Jay Moonah @ McCabe's
- Mike & Junior @ Falls Road Irish Pub

## Sunday, August 13

	YNC Stage (City Hall)	Europro Stage (King and Frederick)	OLG Stage (Victoria Park)	Children's Stage (Clock Tower)
10 am				
11 am			Gospel Breakfast 10:30 to 12:00	
12 pm	Halloween Animals 12:00 to 1:30	Harrison Kennedy 12:00 to 1:00		John McKinley 12:00 to 12:50pm
1 pm			Stealing Dan 1:00 to 2:30	Erick Traplin 1:20 to 2:10pm
2 pm	SheWolves of London 2:00 to 3:30	Lyle Odjick & the North- ern Steam 1:30 to 2:45		Sandy Mac- Donald 2:40 to 3:30pm
3 pm		Mike McKenna's Slidewinder Blues Band 3:15 to 4:30		
4 pm			Odds 3:30 to 5:00	
5 pm	The Legendary Downchild Blues Band 4:30 to 6:00			
6 pm				



## We Can't Say Enough About our Volunteers!



How can we possibly thank our volunteers enough? They're the driving force behind The Grand River Blues Society – as Board of Directors, running events, behind the scenes, and so much more.



## Linear Notes by Shakey Elliott



Juno award winning blues man, and Kitchener native, Steve Strongman is returning to the Kitchener Bluesfest, on Friday August 11th. This will be his first time at the festival since his appearance in 2017, when his set was cut short by tornado warning.

In the years since his last appearance, Strongman has made waves in his professional career, navigated a worldwide pandemic, and taken time for personal reflection - all of which he shared with me when he agreed to a short interview.

In the past few years, pre-pandemic, Strongman was touring (as usual) with an aggressive schedule, making appearances on the Canadian blues scene, and supporting his CD “Tired of Talkin’”. It saw him travel to Memphis, Tennessee, to, once again, represent the Grand River Blues Society at the International Blues Challenge in 2019, winning ‘Best Guitarist’ in the Solo/Duo category.

However, shortly after that success, Strongman, like all other musicians, was faced with the biggest obstacle of his career - the COVID era. With all tours and live performances canceled, he had to adjust quickly, Strongman recalls “Going through the pandemic, we did anything we could to make money in that time frame”.

However, just as things started to look their darkest. A new light shone in Strongman’s favor.

By chance, Strongman was contacted by Geoff Kulawick of Linus Entertainment and Stony Plain Records. After some negotiation, they had agreed upon a mutually beneficial publishing deal. Strongman recounted “it included my entire back catalog in the deal, but he basically signed me as a writer, with a joint publishing agreement moving forward.”

Continued on next page ...

## Steve Strongman Interview

Not only was this beneficial financial relief during the COVID era, it also led to a, then, unforeseen, evolution in Strongman's career.

Strongman recalls Kulawick saying, "I hear you as a producer", he asked, "Are you interested in writing with other people? - I am going to get you writing opportunities". Fast forward a few months, Strongman found himself working with various artists to write and develop songs.

At the same time, he also turned his attention to a fresh batch of songs that he had written, with the intention of developing a new collaborative recording. That collaborative recording turned out to be "The Strongman Blues Remedy - Volume 1", which was a who's who of Canadian Blues artists, released in June of 2022.

This recording effort saw Strongman flex some new muscles as a music producer, and an engineer.

Eventually, the COVID era began to loosen its grip, and the world began to open up again, Strongman was anxious to get back to his normal work of touring and playing live. He recounts his thoughts on returning to business as usual, "When everything opens up again, - what do we all want to do? We want to go out and play shows. But there are way more artists touring. There is a backlog of two years' worth of shows. Not to mention, many of the venues are gone. Competition for those audiences was high. Even now, promoters have cold feet, there's not that built in crowd of sales anymore, - which affects artist guarantees."

Needless to say, the post COVID era was not business as usual for the touring musician.

Once again, favor turned to Strongman, and he received another call from Kulawick, who asked, "Do you know a guy named Kim Wilson (of the Fabulous Thunderbirds)?"

It turns out that Kulawick had arranged a songwriting session between Wilson and Strongman. Strongman did not need to be asked twice.

Before he knew it, Strongman was on a flight to see Wilson, and collaborate on some songs, - an incredible opportunity.

How did it go?

Strongman admits, "The first day went incredibly well and I ended up staying for a week." He continued, "After that (Wilson) Invited me back for another week. It couldn't have gone better."

Continued on next page ...

## Steve Strongman Interview

After a few writing sessions, Wilson and Strongman had co-written 17 new songs. While incredibly pleased with the experience, and the new songs themselves, Strongman thought that the work had been done, and their professional relationship had come to an end, - Not so.

Strongman recounts, “I got another call from Kulawick, and he said, ‘Kim wants you to produce this record with him.’”

As a result of a long path, filled with hard work, and a lifetime committed to writing and playing music, not only has Strongman collaborated to write songs with Kim Wilson, suddenly, he is now co-producing The Fabulous Thunderbirds 50th anniversary record. This is no small task, or small honor to have bestowed upon oneself.

Strongman admits, “I did not go into this lightly. Every single component (of the record) has to be world class. When you are standing next to one of your heroes, and now he is picking you to help create this 50th anniversary record, you have to rise to the occasion and say I have something to offer.”

With the production of The Fabulous Thunderbirds 50th anniversary album currently in progress, Strongman has not lost sight of the career he has built for himself in the Canadian blues landscape.

“I’m too far down the path of being an artist. Eight albums into it, I am still very focused on Steve Strongman the artist. Even at 50, I still have a lot of roads ahead of me”.

And that road will lead Steve Strongman back to the Kitchener Blues festival in 2023.

“I’m beyond excited to come back to Kitchener. That’s where I learned. It’s the breeding ground. It’s homecoming. There is nothing like coming home.”

Steve Strongman Band

Friday, August 11th

OLG - Clock Tower Stage, Victoria Park

7pm



## Puzzles by Clyde

### BLUES FESTIVAL

FIND THESE WORDS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH A BLUES FESTIVAL.

M E D F E I N F O R M A T I O N A  
U V O L U N T E E R O S N O P S C  
R O I C A A C I N O M R A H N O R  
D M I F H V F C I N F S A T C T O  
S K R A P I I S E K I M C T L S W  
K R P S L D C T I L B H E D I E D  
S P O P F O S A S P E A K E R U D  
Y N M U S I C G G E L L S P E L G  
G A N E L F K E R O F T A S R B I

FUN BASS FOOD SONG MIKE CHEER  
SPEAKER DRUM PARK BLUES FESTIVAL  
INFORMATION VOLUNTEER HARMONICA  
LISTEN GUITAR AMPLIFIER SPONSOR  
CROWD HAPPY SMILE MUSIC CHICAGO  
DELTA STAGE



## **Your Grand River Blues Society**

We continue to maintain strong membership numbers in our Grand River Blues Society with over 150 active members. Welcome to all our new members, and thank you to all who renewed!

Please continue to let people know about the Grand River Blues Society and tell them how to join. Better yet, pass on one of our new membership postcards and sign up some more members. If you need postcards, contact any of the Directors or e-mail the address noted below. You might also consider a membership for a friend or family member as a gift.

Also remember that as a member you are always welcome to attend the monthly meetings of the Board. Contact President Bruce Hall, via e-mail, at [grandriverblues@gmail.com](mailto:grandriverblues@gmail.com) and let him know that you would like to attend. Another reminder: If you change your address, phone number or e-mail address, please let us know and be sure to subscribe to the Blues Buzz!

### **Grand River Blues Society**

[www.grandriverblues.org](http://www.grandriverblues.org)

Bruce Hall — President      Claude Cloutier — Vice President

#### **Board of Directors:**

Joanne White      Andrea Cassis

Bob O'Shaughnessy      Chris Arsenault

#### **Contact Information**

Grand River Blues Society, P.O. Box 40109

Waterloo Town Square Post Office Waterloo, ON N2J 4V1

[grandriverblues@gmail.com](mailto:grandriverblues@gmail.com)

#### **Promote Your Event**

If you are a blues artist, band or blues friendly venue with an event coming up, send your info to [grandriverblues@gmail.com](mailto:grandriverblues@gmail.com) and we will get it into the weekly Blues Buzz. Be sure to provide all of the details and get the info to us early.



**Investment  
Planning Counsel**<sup>®</sup>

IPC SECURITIES CORPORATION

**NEXT STEPS PLANNING.CA**



Visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Grand-River-Blues-Society-408160155868047/>

### Membership Has Its Benefits

We are pleased to announce to our members that our friends at **Encore Records** (*Queen Street, Kitchener*) have offered their support to the Grand River Blues Society by giving active members 10% off on all blues CD's. All members have to do to receive discount is show their membership card. This is a great way to spread the blues around and we thank **Encore Records** for their support.

Membership does have it perks, so be sure to keep your membership active!

**Become a Member or Renew Your Membership**  
**Grand River Blues Society**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: [ \_\_\_\_ ] - [ \_\_\_\_ ] - [ \_\_\_\_ ]  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Fees in Cdn Funds (Select one):**

	1 Year	3 Year
Regular Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00
Family Membership (two adults and two children under 19)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00
Student Membership (student ID or under 19)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00	---


Is this a renewal?  Yes  No  
 Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make cheques payable to**  
**"Grand River Blues Society"**


**Address:** Grand River Blues Society  
 P.O. Box 40109  
 Waterloo Town Square Post Office  
 Waterloo, ON N2J 4V1

**Allow 6 weeks for processing**

[www.grandriverblues.org](http://www.grandriverblues.org)  
*Scan To Join The*



**Just 4 Easy Steps**



### Visit Our Blues Booth

Come on over and say "Hi" to your Board members and volunteers at our GRBS merchandise table.

Remember your purchases help financially support our programs!

## **GARY H. ATTACK FINANCIAL PLANNING INC.**

Committed to Personal Service and Professional Excellence

Gary H. Attack, B.B.A., CFP, R.F.P, P.R.P. Certified Financial Planner

Email: [gary@ghafinancial.com](mailto:gary@ghafinancial.com)

Website: [www.ghafinancial.com](http://www.ghafinancial.com)

*Insurance products provided through HollisWealth Advisory Services Inc*

document  
**print integrity inc.**

proudly supporting  
**Grand River  
Blues Society**

PHOTOCOPYING - SCANNING  
SIGNS - GRAPHIC DESIGN  
FAXING - LAMINATING  
PLAK MOUNTING  
MAILING SERVICES

INVITATIONS  
BROCHURES  
BUSINESS CARDS  
BINDING, POSTERS  
FLYERS, CHEQUES  
LETTERHEADS, ENVELOPES  
CUSTOM PHOTO CALENDARS

**PERSONAL SERVICE &  
QUALITY PRINTING**

**FULL COLOUR  
PRINTING**

Phone (519) 885-0670 • Fax (519) 885-5813 • 465 Phillip Street, Unit 10  
[WWW.PRINTINTEGRITY.COM](http://WWW.PRINTINTEGRITY.COM) • [ORDERS@PRINTINTEGRITY.COM](mailto:ORDERS@PRINTINTEGRITY.COM)

## **Monthly Raffle Winner!**

We have another winner of our bi-monthly draw. Each month one of our members is picked in a raffle for a blues related prize. Greg Gignac of Ancaster wins 2 tickets to the Road to Memphis Fundraiser which will be held on Sunday Nov 26th at Stonewalls Restaurant Hamilton.

Next draw will be held in October 2023. Keep your membership active to be eligible!

## **Central Ontario Musicians Association**

Representing Local Musicians and Promoting Live Music

### **HIRE A LIVE BAND!**

Sponsor of Grand River Blues Camp

100 Ahrens St. W Kitchener, ON N2H 4C3 (519) 744-4891

[info@centralontariomusicians.org](mailto:info@centralontariomusicians.org)

[www.centralontariomusicians.org](http://www.centralontariomusicians.org)





# Road To Memphis

for IBC 2024

## Fundraiser

Sunday, Nov 26th 2023  
2:00pm - 5:00pm

**GLENN MARAIS**  
& *The Mojo Train*

**PATRICK FOCKLER**

**THE TRAINWRECKS**  
(TDKBF Youth Showcase Band)



**339 York Boulevard Hamilton**

**advance \$15, Door \$20**

Tickets Available @: 



For reservations call Stonewalls @ (905) 577-0808



**[www.grandriverblues.org](http://www.grandriverblues.org)**

Design by Chris Arsenault