



*Publisher/Editor in Chief—Bruce Hall*

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## **Second Annual Grand River Blues Awarded to WILLY A!**

The GRAND RIVER BLUES AWARD is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have contributed to blues music or the growth of the blues in the region.

The first Award was presented in 2023 at the Grand River Blues Camp conclusion at the Kitchener Blues Festival. The Award recipients were Dennis Cuomo and George White founders of The Grand River Blues Camp.



At the AGM after party held at The Jazz Room in Waterloo Grand River Blues Society President Bruce Hall proudly presented the 2024 Grand River Blues Award to WILLY A.

A little over twenty-seven years ago, a chance meeting with a CKWR Board member, at a Fathead concert at the old Kitchener Station Hotel, lead to an apprenticing opportunity and eventually becoming the deejay host of the Old Chicago Blues Show in January 1997. This was such a natural fit for him for he understood and appreciated that Blues music was the basis for so many present-day music genres, including the RnB and Soul Music he grew up with.

In 2003, when Willy became a founding member of the Grand River Blues Society, it proved to be the perfect vehicle to help extend the outreach of Blues music into our community and beyond.

Continued on next page . . .

## Grand River Blues Award . . continued

Watching the Society continue to thrive now for 21 years instills in him a great sense of satisfaction and pride. Over the years, Willy A proudly showcased not only Chicago Blues, but rather all styles of Blues music from artists worldwide. At the same time, he has managed to maintain a lifelong passion for the classic RnB music of the 50's, 60's, and 70's, by presenting weekly tracks from those decades, on his "RnB Corner", which draws from his treasured collection of records.

Congratulations Willy A for a well-deserved recognition and your sense of Volunteerism for The Grand River Blues community. Well done Blues Brother!



## Behind the Bar



Watermelon Slim & Teresa Manning

## Boomers

Boomers first opened in February 1995.

In 2000 Teresa brought the blues music back to Kitchener by offering Friday night live bands and a jam night on Thursdays with Shawn Kellerman and Douglas Watson. Saturday nights was the Blues Devils who really enjoyed playing Boomers.

One of our best experiences for Teresa was the day Mo Kauffey walked into Boomers with and said to her “hey we play music do you want to hear us”, of course Teresa agreed and the Boomers Brewhaha started Fridays with the after work crowd. Sometimes there were 11 people up there. And many young’s guy got their start there like Jesse Webber and Dan Beacock.

Pete Temple played every week and that’s how Teresa got to meet Liz Temple who became a founding Director of The Grand River Blues Society and a Director with the TD Kitchener Blues Festival.

Friday nights were busy and seldom was there ever a cover charge. Boomers booked Jack dekeyser, Downchild, David Rotundo, Mark Stafford, Fathead, David Gogo, Cheryl Lescom and the list goes on and on.

Teresa Manning received so much help from dearly departed Philip Bast, Jason from the KW Record, Claude Cloutier, Bruce Hall and a few others including my other boy Kevin Doyle of the TDKBF and much later the iconic Boathouse.

Continued on next page . . .

## Behind the Bar. . . continued

Then in early 2001, this great guy named Grant Rawcliffe came to me and said in New Zealand we do a Blues Brews & Barbecue and pitched the idea to pique some interest. Well then of course Teresa said yes. Apparently, Don Chapman from the City of Kitchener sent him. That was the beginning of the Kitchener Blues Festival. It was renamed after a few years so it was more easy for people to find us. The first year Blues Brews and BBQ was put it together in just a few months and had 3000 people attending. It was amazing all local bands like Daddy Long Legs, Mel Brown and waterstreet blues band.

Teresa called all the right people who she knew would be a great team, Rob Deyman, Marty Schreiter, Don Chapman, Grant Rawcliffe, James Anthony and Teresa herself.. Over the years she pulled in Kevin Doyle, Rob Barkshire, Liz Temple, Claude Cloutier, and many others.

From the Boomer's Blues Bar, the Grand River Blues Society idea of forming from a MSN Blog discussion moved to a in person meeting at Boomer's downstairs Bar which led to even more great things happening.

Teresa was on the Board OF Directors of TDKBF for 12 years until her husband and her moved up to Northern Ontario.

She still attends yearly as a volunteer overseeing the Festival's City Hall and King Street areas.

She has been given the title of honorary board member. She is quoted as saying "I'm not sure if it means anything but hard to get rid of the founding board member. I owe a lot to many people who helped but we owe a lot to Grant Rawcliffe who brought the idea to me so many years ago.

It was a great venue. some great friendships and hey, the blues came back to Kitchener. I thank Glenn Smith for always keeping the blues present and supporting me on those Friday Nights. Also, thanks to Philip Bast and Bruce Hall and his volunteers and directors form the Grand River Blues Society



# The Winners of the Blues Music Awards

- ♫ B.B. King Entertainer of the Year: Bobby Rush
- ♫ Album of the Year: Live In London, Christone “Kingfish” Ingram
- ♫ Band of the Year: Nick Moss Band
- ♫ Song of the Year: “What Kind Of Fool” written by Ruthie Foster, Hadden Sayers & Scottie Miller
- ♫ Best Emerging Artist Album: The Right Man, D.K. Harrell
- ♫ Acoustic Blues Album: Raw Blues 1, Doug MacLeod
- ♫ Blues Rock Album: Blood Brothers, Mike Zito/ Albert Castiglia
- ♫ Contemporary Blues Album: Live In London, Christone “Kingfish” Ingram
- ♫ Soul Blues Album: All My Love For You, Bobby Rush
- ♫ Traditional Blues Album: TEARDROPS FOR MAGIC SLIM, John Primer
- ♫ Acoustic Blues Artist: Keb’ Mo’
- ♫ Blues Rock Artist: Mike Zito
- ♫ Contemporary Blues Female Artist: Danielle Nicole
- ♫ Contemporary Blues Male Artist: Christone “Kingfish” Ingram
- ♫ Soul Blues Female Artist: Annika Chambers
- ♫ Soul Blues Male Artist: John Nemeth
- ♫ Traditional Blues Female Artist (Koko Taylor Award): Sue Foley
- ♫ Traditional Blues Male Artist: John Primer
- ♫ Instrumentalist - Bass: Bob Stroger
- ♫ Instrumentalist - Drums: Kenny “Beedy Eyes” Smith
- ♫ Instrumentalist - Guitar: Christone “Kingfish” Ingram
- ♫ Instrumentalist - Harmonica: Jason Ricci
- ♫ Instrumentalist - Horn: Vanessa Collier
- ♫ Instrumentalist - Piano (Pinetop Perkins Piano Player Award): Kenny “Blues Boss” Wayne
- ♫ Instrumentalist - Vocals: Ruthie Foster



# BLUES FESTIVAL GUIDE 2024

## May

Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival | May 31-June 2 | Downtown Orangeville, ON

## June

Pender Harbour Blues Festival | June 7-9 | Pender Harbour, BC  
Grand River Black Music Festival and Conference | June 14-16 | Kitchener ON  
Stratford Blues & Ribfest | June 21-23 | Stratford, ON  
Toronto Jazz Festival | June 21-30 | Toronto, ON  
Vancouver Jazz Festival | June 21-30 | Vancouver BC  
East York Rotary BluesFest | June 22 | Toronto ON  
Montreal Jazz Festival | June 27-July 6 | Montreal QC

## July

Ottawa Bluesfest | July 4-14 | LeBreton Flats, Ottawa, ON  
Mariposa Folk Festival | July 5-7 | Orillia, ON  
Tremblant International Blues Festival | July 10-14 | Mont-Tremblant, QC  
Beaches International Jazz Festival | July 4-28 | Toronto, ON  
Lighthouse Blues Festival | July 12-14 | Kincardine ON  
Vancouver Island Musicfest | July 12-14 | Courtenay, BC  
Au son du Moulin / Blues & Gin | July 19-21 | Gentilly, QC  
Festival BLUES D'LA BAIE Petit-Rocher | July 25-28 | Petit-Rocher, NB  
Salmon Arm Roots & Blues | July 26-28 | Salmon Arm BC

## August

Donnacona Blues Festival | July 31 – Aug 4 | Donnacona QC  
Calgary Blues Festival | July 28 – Aug 4 | Calgary AB August  
TD Kitchener Blues Festival | Aug 8-11 | Kitchener, ON  
Live from the Rock Folk Festival | Aug 9-11 | Red Rock, ON  
Nanaimo Blues Festival | Aug 8-11 | Nanaimo BC  
Edmonton Blues Festival | Aug 16-18 | Edmonton AB  
Markham Jazz Festival | Aug 16-18 | Markham, ON

## September

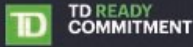
Southside Shuffle Blues & Jazz Festival | Sept 6-8 | Port Credit, ON  
Belleville Downtown Blues Festival | Sept 6-7 | Belleville, ON  
Harvest Music Festival | Sept 10-15 | Fredricton, NB  
Wasaga Beach Blues Festival | Sept 13-15 | Wasaga Beach, ON



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# The Fraidy Scats Win the Kitchener Blues Festival Youth Legacy Showcase



The future of the blues was on display at Bobby O'Brien's in Kitchener on Sunday April 28th at the Kitchener Blues Festival Youth Legacy Showcase featured four fabulous young acts that proved age means nothing when it comes to music.

Newly-formed group, The Fraidy Scats won the day and will now have a great spot at this year's Kitchener Blues Festival.

The Fraidy Scats are a brand new 4 piece Band formed after they met during The Grand River Blues Camp in 2023 and fronted by 2 veterans of the Blues Camp Guitarist and vocals Jacob Shay 17 and Zander Mitrana 14 Vocals, Piano, Harmonica and Saxophone.

Congratulations!





# It's BACK!!!!

## Grand River Blues Camp 2024

### August 6-9th, 2024



Each August, THE GRAND RIVER BLUES CAMP (Kitchener, Ontario) offers a four-day Youth Blues Camp, providing an intensive Blues educational experience to improve musical skills, to learn from and play with professional musicians. On the last day of the Camp students perform with peers at the Kitchener Blues Festival - [kitchenerbluesfestival.com](http://kitchenerbluesfestival.com). Blues Music is the foundation for modern popular music including jazz; pop; rock; hip hop and R&B etc.

#### Eligibility:

- ♪ Aged of 12-18 (some flexibility exists);
- ♪ Have some basic skill on your instrument(s):
  - ♪ guitar; bass; brass; percussion;
  - ♪ keyboards; harmonica and/or vocals.
- ♪ Interest in increasing knowledge of blues techniques/licks.
- ♪ Want to make some new friends and meet other musicians.
- ♪ Want to learn from and jam with professional musicians.
- ♪ In the future want to perform solo or with your own band/group.
- ♪ Learn set-up sound/stage equipment (back-line);
- ♪ Compose original music



For many students, teachers and fans, the "Blues Camp" is one of the highlights of their musical year. We hope to see you there.

Need More Information?

<https://www.grandriverblues.org/registration-2024.html#/>

Phone: 226-600-4270 or 226-791-9620

Email: [grandriverbluescamp@gmail.com](mailto:grandriverbluescamp@gmail.com)



## Blues in Schools

The Grand River Blues Society is involved in music education initiatives throughout the region. Blues in the Schools, in partnership with the TDKBF, places blues musicians in classrooms in the Grand River Region to teach grade school children about the history and beauty of the blues.

Blues in Schools will take place in our region again in the autumn of 2024 at different Schools. The program is offered free of charge to schools and is suitable for all grades K-12. Blues in the Schools covers the origins of blues music - from field hollers and work songs thru to its influences on modern popular music. These educational performances are presented to schools in an entertaining, 60-minute performance by respected blues musician John McKinley from Kitchener.



Thanks to the TD Kitchener Blues Festival, C3 Group and The Grand River Blues Society.

For more information, or to find out how your school can participate in this program, please email: [grandriverblues@gmail.com](mailto:grandriverblues@gmail.com)



## Behind the Mic



## Scott Wilkinson

I was always AWARE of the blues, and played it periodically, but I didn't really get the bug until I decided to see who my musical heroes were listening to and influenced by. I think the 3 artists that really launched me into being a 'bluesman' were The Allman Brothers, Rory Gallagher and Roy Buchanan. There were certainly other influences, but these guys, I could listen to all day.

One day, at a bar called, 'The Other Side of Five', I struck up a conversation with a guy named John Hoovenaars. I was aware of John, we saw each other at blues shows, etc., but never really talked at length. We sat at the bar and started talking about music, and primarily the blues. We had similar tastes and he seemed interested that I had a good knowledge base and "could put complete sentences together" He eventually asked me, "Would you like to co-host my radio show?" I thought it was a cool idea, but I had never been in front of a microphone in my life. (And that still may show.) I said that I would consider it and come up to the studio and see what it entailed.

For a couple of weeks, I shadowed John, in the studio. He showed me how the board and all the equipment worked. I began to feel comfortable with the ballet of knobs, buttons, sliders, and dials, but the microphone still intimidated me. One day, just before the show was to air, John got up to go to the bathroom and he didn't come back until the end of our time slot. Trial by fire. I had gotten through the program solo but shaken.

From then on, I did every other week for a few years until John decided to retire and leave the show in my hands. The other person that was integral in my 'career' as a broadcaster and event MC gigs, was Greg Simpson. I had listened to Greg on local radio, as a teen and years later, buying vinyl from him when he was the manager of a record store. Greg was one of the few guys that could beat me at music trivia. Not just beat me, but really humble me.

Continued on next page . . .

## Behind the Mic . . . continued

Greg and I sat on the board of The Great Lakes Blues Society, together, in the early days of the society, and when the opportunities to broadcast and do some MC work arose, he was very encouraging and always willing to share his expertise with me. Greg didn't suffer fools easily. He could be acerbic when speaking with anyone and always spoke his mind, but we got along very well. I learned a lot always felt Greg had my back.

I've been doing 'The Blues Never Die' radio show for about 12 years now and have been doing MC work for about 10, and still often go back to the lessons that both these men have taught me. The program is presented on a campus/community radio platform through the University of Western Ontario.

Over the years, I have had a couple opportunities to expand my show or 'A' show to a larger audience with a different platform but have declined. I like the fact that I play what I want and am not obliged to follow somebody else's' playlist. The program has been lucky enough to be nominated for a Forest City Music Award (now defunct) for several consecutive years. My personal leanings are towards a rock-blues but love and do play all sub-genres of blues. The programs' mandate is to always promote local artists, new releases and whoever may be playing locally. Between the 'Blues Never Die' FB page and 'The Blues News', on the program,

I like to keep a fairly concise list of who's playing where in the 519 area code and promote those shows on each program. Now, as chairman of the 'Great Lakes Blues Society', I have the opportunity of helping decide which bands we get to bring to London. "What a long, strange trip it's been".

The show can be heard Wednesday nights from 8-10pm, on CHRW 94.9fm - [www.radiowestern.ca](http://www.radiowestern.ca)



## **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    Chris Arsenault**  
**Paul Hunley    Elle Wake**  
**Janet Horgan    Marion Grousopoulos**  
**Danielle Reynolds    Christine Rushton**

#### **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.



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### 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!

[www.grandriverblues.org](http://www.grandriverblues.org)  
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**20** GRAND RIVER BLUES SOCIETY EST. 2003  
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**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 #: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Bi-Monthly Raffle Winner!**

We have another winner of our bi-monthly draw. Each newsletter one of our members is picked in a raffle for a blues related prize. Bob Simmie of Brantford wins 2 tickets to the Road to Memphis (Solo/Duo) @ The Polish Hall Brantford on Sunday June 9th. Next draw will be held in late July for the Aug/Sept Newsletter. Keep your membership active to be eligible!

## **Central Ontario Musicians Association**

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



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

