



# The Bluesletter

NOVEMBER 30, 2016

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## From the Chair.....

Hello Great Lakes Blues Members:

Now that the weather is turning colder and it gets darker earlier, we will not be calling a general meeting for the next while. For that reason, we have created this newsletter to keep everyone informed and up-to-date with what is going on with your Society.

To start with, I am pleased to announce that one of our founding members has volunteered to join the Board even though he no longer resides in the London area - welcome back Greg Simpson!!

In August this year, we saw the successful return of a bluesfest to London! We were not the organizers of this event; however, we were involved at the invitation of the owner, Ron Schroeyens. We had a number of members volunteer to manage the various stages and run the GLBS tent. From the tent, we featured Society merchandise and memberships, as well as guitar raffle tickets in support of our Road to Memphis competition. To all who volunteered or participated ... a HUGE thank-you!

For those of us who attended The Last Waltz show on November 12<sup>th</sup> at Centennial Hall, it was great fun - an entertaining evening with outstanding music! Hope it comes back to London again to give others the opportunity to enjoy the show and to appreciate the incredible talent that is here in SWO!

Coming events include our third "Trio of Trios" themed show which will be held at the London Music Hall on Friday, January 6, 2017. As we did on the first weekend in January last year, this event will be a benefit for local charity Rowbust to help them defend their world championship title in Hungary next year. Stay tuned for more details coming by email. For more info on Rowbust, please visit their website: [www.rowbustdragonboat.com](http://www.rowbustdragonboat.com)

We have exciting news about membership numbers - currently sitting at 178 members! This is due in part to all the new members who joined our ranks after the Road to Memphis competitions but I send a special note of thanks to all for your continuing support! Please remember that all events organized by the GLBS are coordinated by members who volunteer their time. I encourage you to thank them when you come to events and ask that you consider volunteering occasionally if your schedule allows. Thanks for your consideration.

Reports from members of the Board in charge of various Society portfolios, appear below.

I would love to receive your feedback about this newsletter and if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me any time:  
bonnie@greatlakesbluessociety.com / 519-870-9158

As the holiday season approaches, we on the Board of Directors wish you and yours a Happy, Healthy time, and send best wishes for 2017!

Yours in Blues,

Bonnie Tucker  
Chair / Director-Membership



## Road to Memphis [RTM]

The Great Lakes Blues Society's annual Road to Memphis competition was held throughout September with Champions Day taking place on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Eastside Bar and Grill. Lit'I CHICAGO, Blues on the Rocks and The Focklers performed in the Band category and The Dozens, Langille & Lockwood, and Brock Stonefish in the Solo/Duo. The performances were outstanding by all competitors, with Langille & Lockwood taking the Solo/Duo and The Focklers advancing as the Band. The Great Lakes Blues Society will be well represented by these very fine musicians at the International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis, Tennessee in January.

And don't miss the RTM Fundraiser on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at Eastside Bar and Grill starting at 3:00 pm. Proceeds will help defer travel expenses for the members of Langille & Lockwood and the Focklers when they head down to Memphis. The list of performers for the January 15<sup>th</sup> event continues to grow so mark your calendars and plan to be there for a great afternoon and evening of the Blues - \$10 at the door.

[Dave Harland](#)

[Director / Chair-IBC, Road to Memphis](#)

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## Blues in the Schools [BITS]

Sometimes you have to jump when an opportunity presents itself. 2016 will be a year like no other for the Great Lakes Blues Society. For the first time, we were able to hold a second Blues In The Schools program in the same calendar year.

Almost as if it the stars were aligned, we found ourselves with both a sponsor, and a music educator interested in sharing their appreciation and knowledge of the blues.

The sponsorship came from our good friends and supporters of the GLBS, George Kerigan and Henri from the Eastside Bar & Grill. George and Eastside have been the most gracious hosts for our Road To Memphis competitions and send-off parties for several years now. George then approached us about giving something back to the community; specifically, to his neighbourhood, and he made a donation to secure a BITS presenter for the local elementary school.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, this Gift of Blues, was presented to Ealing Public School, 840 Hamilton Road in London. Both their principal Lisa Fleet, and music director Kim Campbell, were very excited about this opportunity, and very appreciative of the gift provided to them by George and Eastside.

Blues artist Kat Danser presented her educational blues program for the students from grades 4 to 8 and the kids were enthralled. Kat is dubbed 'Queen of the Swamp Blues', and this Edmonton-based guitar-slinger, songsmith, and blazing vocalist channels the spirit of roots, blues and gospel music pioneers into her amazing performance. She holds a Masters in Musicology from the University of Alberta and has completed her PhD coursework toward a full doctorate in Musicology specializing in blues and roots music in the American South.

Danser is the Artist in Residence at the EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts (Calgary), facilitates music and healing at the U-School Program for Marginalized Youth at Foothills Youth Psychiatric School, and instructs her own Music Education Program from elementary schools to adult instructional camps. Danser's primary goal is to use music as a space for personal exploration and as a method to strengthen communities.

Personally, I have to say it was a privilege to meet this amazingly talented lady and watch her perform. It was a treat to see the reaction of the students as they discovered more about the music they thought they already knew!

A special thanks to GLBS member Brian Mortimer for connecting us to Kat to do this program.

Paul Breau  
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## Finance

At the last Annual General Meeting in June, we gave details of the Society's finances which I am pleased to say are still in excellent shape. We have had another successful run at raising sponsorship dollars for both the Road To Memphis and the Blues in the Schools programs. In addition, our Road to Memphis competitions in September saw excellent financial results and so once again, the RTM program has proven to be largely self-funding.

As you can imagine, when producing shows it is always wise to have a healthy reserve to cover possible losses. We have managed to maintain this reserve so we are in a strong position to continue funding events such as Blues in the Schools and to produce shows such as the Trio of Trios in early January 2017.

A full financial report will be submitted at the 2017 AGM in June but if you have any specific questions, please feel free to get in touch any time.

Earle Taylor  
Director / Treasurer  
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## Welcome New Board Member

Greg Simpson is a founding member of the GLBS, who spent three years as chair of the board of directors, but left the Board when he moved to Vancouver six years ago. He has continued to monitor the activities of the GLBS from afar, and recently returned to the board as a long-distance member.

Greg has more than 50 years of experience in the music and radio industries, and is looking forward to offering his input and skills to help the Society continue on its prescribed path and to support its efforts. He hopes to occasionally return to London to participate in person but, in the meantime, will take advantage of the modern methods of communication to aid the Society's efforts as fully as is possible.

Greg is both a Director of the Society and is serving as Chair of the Media Committee.

**Great Lakes Blues  
Society**

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