



PRESS KIT

Individually the members of the Rideau Ramblers have been fixtures of the Celtic music scene in Ottawa for the past two decades. They have been active as session musicians, performers, organizers, and instrument makers. They have now pooled their considerable talents to bring a mixture of Celtic styles and influences that is uniquely Ottawa in its roots.



Debbie Quigley, Ellen Maclsaac, Frank Cassidy, Dennis Alexander, Jeff McClintock

Celtic music and song from Ireland, Scotland and beyond

Dennis Alexander

Dennis started his musical career at a young age, playing mandolin in the family band in Pontiac Co. Québec. He has been involved with traditional and old time music for many years as a fiddle player and is well known throughout North America and beyond as a violin maker. He has released four popular albums of fiddle music; " Fiddlemaker Series - Volumes 1, 2 and 3" and "Tunes of Choice"

Jeff McClintock

Jeff has been playing with Dennis and Frank for more than 10 years, always providing tasteful back-up on whatever instrument suits the occasion. Originally from Sarnia Ontario, now living in Ottawa, he is in much demand as an accompanist on keyboard and guitar. He is also known to break out the accordion or harmonium, depending on the situation. You may also find him playing with other popular Traditional bands such as; "The Friends of Fiddler's Green" or "The D'Arcy McGee" band. While living in Saudi Arabia, Jeff played in the Band, "Frilly Knickers" with the Willmott sisters. They produced three albums of Traditional Music.

Debbie Quigley

Deb Quigley was born in Newtownards, County Down and lived during the early 70's in the town of Bangor where she was first introduced to the native music of Ireland. Chris (Charlie Ferguson) R.I.P... Whistle and flute player also from Bangor was a huge influence on her music during the formative years. During the late 80's she was once again inspired musically by the playing and teaching of the late Chris Langan Uilleann piper, instrument maker, and music teacher originally from Rush, County Dublin who lived for many years in Toronto. Deb credits much of her music to the patient, and informative teaching style of her mentor and friend.

Frank Cassidy

Frank grew up in the middle of Ireland, surrounded by the traditional music of Offaly and East Galway. He has performed at many venues from the first multi-racial concert in Johannesburg, South Africa to Dublin's Trinity Hall. He has appeared on Irish, South African and Canadian television and co-wrote the theme for an Irish Arts program for RTE (Irish TV). He has collaborated with James Stevens, writing music for and producing a CD depicting the Life and Times of Thomas Darcy McGee. His first CD "Tin Air" won critical acclaim in Canada and the US.

Ellen MacIsaac

Ellen is known in the Ottawa area as a singer specializing in the Irish traditional singing styles and repertoire. She has lectured on Celtic music at the University of Ottawa, taught traditional singing at Carleton University, and performs at local céilís and sessions. In 2012, she won first place in the sean-nós competition at Canada's first Irish-language festival and competition, the *Oireachtas Gaeilge Cheanada*, and represented Canada at the 2012 *Oireachtas na Samhna*, Ireland's Gaelic-speaking festival. She created the Ottawa Celtic Choir in 2007, and acts as its musical director.

contact



<https://www.rideauramblers.com>



The Rideau Ramblers



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Past Performances

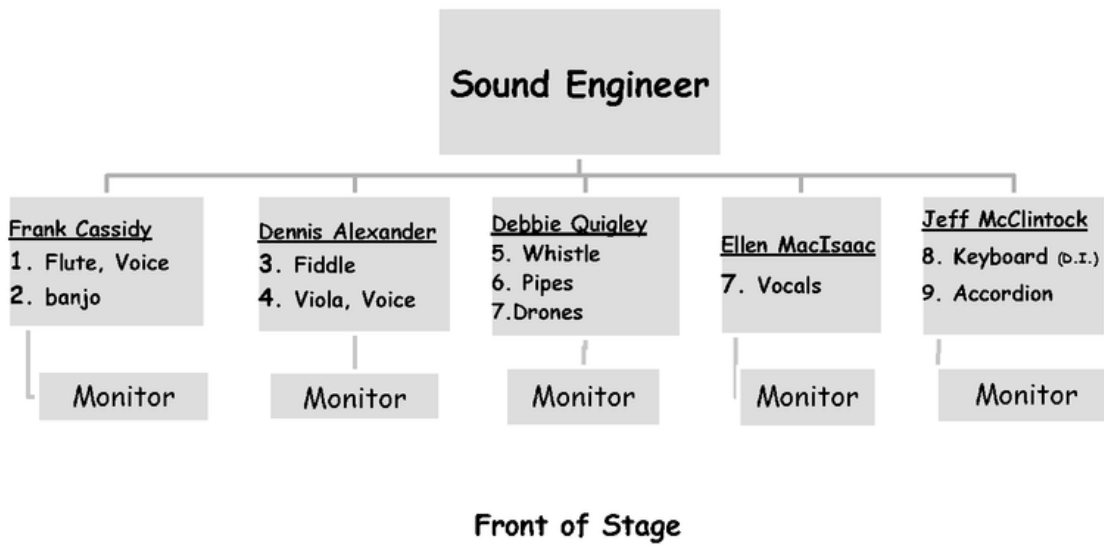
- The Little Red Wagon Winery
- The Heart and Crown
- Gatineau Hills Fiddle Festival
- Almonte Celtfest
- The Red Bird
- Irish Ambassador's Residence
- Chateau Laurier

Stage Plot

Frank Cassidy
613 834 1857
Dennis Alexander
613 282 7940

RIDEAU RAMBLERS

Traditional Music
Suggested Stage Layout



27 January 2024



PACKED HOUSE AT LITTLE RED WAGON WINERY

On March 19 a sold-out crowd at the Little Red Wagon Winery celebrated St. Patrick's Day and enjoyed an evening of fine Irish music by the quartet, Dennis Alexander and Friends.

The evening began with a dinner choice of lamb stew or shepherd's pie, followed by chocolate cake or chocolate mousse for dessert and accompanied by the Red Wagon's own red and white wines.

With Dennis Alexander on violin, Frank Cassidy on banjo and whistle, Jeffrey McClintock on keyboard and accordion, along with the vocals of Ellen MacIssac, the group performed a variety of traditional Irish and Celtic tunes. MacIssac sang Caledonia and The Log Driver's Waltz.

Scott Judd of the Winery said, "We are booked solidly for the next three months, as the phone rings off the hook with people looking for a reservation and entertainment. The past two years have been a setback and returning to regular operations is a cause for optimism. We are happy to attract local artists and provide them with a solid venue to perform their music—the community loves it."

Celtic Concert at the Little Red Wagon Shawville Equity March 23, 2022



From the left: Frank Cassidy, Dennis Alexander, Jeff McClintok, and Ellen MacIssac.

Brett, THE EQUITY

BRETT THOMS
SHAWVILLE March 19 2022

The house was packed on Saturday at the Little Red Wagon Winery as people gathered to attend a Celtic music concert performance by Dennis Alexander and Friends.

The group of musicians was composed of Dennis Alexander, Frank Cassidy, Jeff McClintok and Ellen MacIssac.

The band played a variety of Celtic music ranging from Irish, Scottish and beyond. They played instruments ranging from the fiddle, the accordion, the banjo and the keyboard. Ellen MacIssac,

who is familiar with various Gaelic languages, even sang a few songs in Irish and Scottish Gaelic.

Many of the songs had a connection to Irish folklore, or of loss and romance. For example, one song performed by the group was about a woman who dressed as a sailor to follow her love who had been drafted off to war. Another more tragic story, about those who had to leave Ireland to work in England and longed to return to their homeland.

Alexander, who is Pontiac native from North Onslow, is an accomplished fiddler and fiddle maker.

"I feel right at home here," said Alexander about his return.

"It just so happened that you know, things have been opening up around St. Patrick's Days so it gives us a good time to celebrate, play some music together and enjoy the company of all of these great people," said Cassidy about the night.

He went on to say that the fact they were playing Celtic music around St. Patrick's Day was incidental, given their significant experience playing traditional Irish music and therefore playing it all year round.

"The venue is lovely, said McClintok. "I mean, it's got a lovely acoustic sound to hear."

The crowd was encouraged to participate in the performance as they sang along, clapped and stomped along with the rhythm of the music.

The band liked the crowd and the crowd seemed to like the band back, as the winery stayed full throughout the performance.

Live music performances are booked at the Little Red Wagon all the way up until August according to Chris Judd, its owner.