

GORDON LIGHTFOOT TRIBUTE
CLASSIC LIGHTFOOT LIVE



SATURDAY MAY 26 7:30pm
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YEAR ROUND SERVICE

Gordon Lightfoot Tribute Comes to Midland Cultural Centre May 26

A Gordon Lightfoot tribute band that helps raise funds for the Great Lakes Georgian Bay Foundation will perform on May 26 at the Midland Cultural Centre.

John Stinson, a Township of Tiny resident, and his tribute band Classic Lightfoot Live regularly raise money for charitable causes. Last year the band held two concerts for the Foundation, and talks are underway for another two this year. And then there's the Midland concert, just in time for Mother's Day.

Originally from Toronto, Stinson has spent summers in Tiny Township all his life, and in the last five years has been building a retirement home here. He's been performing for more than 30 years. While raising his family in Aurora he became neighbours with Lightfoot's original lead guitarists, Red Shea and Terry Clements.

"Spending time with Red Shea and Terry Clements brought me even closer to understanding the details and nuances of Lightfoot's music," Stinson says. "To me, his music really does reflect what it means to be Canadian. His lyrics tell stories: his stories, our stories, Canadian stories. They reach out and touch audiences in deep emotional ways."

Jim Jones, meanwhile, plays keyboards and guitar. He met Stinson years ago at a club in Toronto and right away knew he liked him.

"I had to do a second take," he laughs. "His baritone voice was just like Lightfoot's from the 1970s."

Eric Kidd, also a long time Barrie resident and an accomplished professional musician and music teacher, is the lead guitarist and plays "mind-blowing guitar," said Jones, adding that he also knew and studied with Red Shea from Lightfoot's first band. "Red Shea's early



work on Lightfoot's records always helped to define Gord's music and Eric channels Red and Terry's guitar style perfectly."

Stinson's most memorable experience so far was performing with Gordon in the audience. That was the thrill of my life. Gord came up after the show and congratulated us on the performance."

The Classic Lightfoot Live show, featuring highlights from Lightfoot's 20 studio albums, will be sure to have Lightfoot lovers tapping their toes. They can expect to hear some little-known tracks along with the much-loved ones such as, *Rainy Day People*, *If You Could Read My Mind*, and *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*.

Find out more about the Midland show at www.midlandculturalcentre.com.

Grow Your Own Wildflower Magic

By PENNY BARR, ROWNTREE BEACH - PHOTOS BY HEATHER BARR

Driving through Perkinsfield to and from the cottage took a delightful turn for our family. North of the church on the west side of Simcoe 6, Louis Parent and his daughter, Theresa, have created a massive display of wildflowers in their unused 1/4 acre field next to their home. The farm is easy to find with "Quails Eggs for Sale" and a birdhouse display on the lawn.

We first noticed the wildflowers in early August and pulled well off the road so that my daughter could take photos. Our friends were so impressed that on the next visit I stopped to ask how and why this colourful oasis came to be. The Parents gladly shared all their expertise with me. If it was such a success for them then perhaps our green thumb readers can adapt and scale these instructions to the size and conditions of their own property. Yes, attracting bees, birds and butterflies was a major incentive.

The Parents purchased a pound of perennial seed from Ritchie's Feeds 'N Needs in Elmvale and a five-pound bag of All Annual Wildflower Mixture from American Meadows Inc. The total cost for this project was approximately \$150.

Another option would be to supplement or substitute purchased wildflower seeds with seeds from your area. Please note that the amount of sunlight determines the type of seed to use. Check with your retailer before you buy. The Parents have full sunlight.

The land-savvy Parent family offers these tips for success in creating your own wildflower meadow.

Preparation

- Remove all existing growth from seedbed.
- Mow, if the grass is fairly tall, as short as you can.
- Till/plough/disc the area to loosen the soil and break up roots.
- Rake/remove roots and plant material brought up from tilling.



- For a more "weed seed free" soil, spray the selected area with herbicide, wait two weeks, and spray again.
- Sow seed as soon as ground is bare and loose to give flowers an advantage over weeds.
- Divide seed into two equal parts. Add sand to help disperse the seeds evenly.
- Sow one part in one direction and the second part in the opposite direction to achieve better coverage.
- Do not cover seed. Use a lawn roller or place a board over the seeds and gently walk on it to compress the seeds into the soil.

Maintenance

- Keep soil moist until seeds are 6-8" (15-20 cm) tall.
- Mow flowers once a year in fall after the first killing frost.

Theresa Parent, who played a major role in this project, has completed forestry studies at Fleming College and has now returned for additional studies in Urban Forestry. In this family, caring for the land is a tradition.

This project shows the unexpected power of a field of glorious wildflowers to ease the burden of our hectic lives and enrich the soul.

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