

Playlist for May 6, 1996  
The Great North Wind  
(Home of the Porcupine Awards)

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Blasting at 15,000 Watts to you out there in Ostryhon Corners, Willow Grove, Fergus, Scarborough and Stroud

Theme:  
GRIEVOUS ANGELS: The Great North Wind  
Toute Le Gang, Cas, 1988, Moose Records 001 - Deleted  
[Written by Chuck Angus of Cobalt, Ontario. Editor of Northeastern Ontario's HIGHGRADER MAGAZINE. Other Angels heard here: Michelle Rumball, vocals; Tim Hadley, double bass; "Fireman Pete" Duffin, drums; and Boozoo Peter Jellard on accordions, fiddle, vocals]

This week we paid tribute to one of Canada's foremost folklorists the late Edith Fowke.

Edith Fulton was born in Lumsden, Saskatchewan on April 30, 1913 and died in Toronto on March 28th.

Edith became interested in social issues at a very early age. It was only natural that she became attracted to the newly developing social democratic political party being born on the prairie, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation which spoke of pacifism and social equality. (This party became the New Democratic Party in the early 60s) It was through her work as editor of CCF newsletters that she developed an interest in writing of the people and for the people. She married Frank Fowke and moved to Toronto in 1938. After the war Edith began collecting recordings, mostly American, of folk performers like Burl Ives. She figured that the CBC should have a folk music radio program so she talked them into it and hosted Folk Song Time for 4 seasons in the early 50s.

It was during this time that Edith realized that there was very little information or knowledge about traditional singing, and songs, in western Canada, that being Canada west of Quebec. After visiting with Dr. Helen Creighton she felt encouraged enough to venture into the countryside collecting folkloric material. She was the first to publish a truly Canadian folk song book: *Folksongs of Canada* with Richard Johnson. This was a collection of songs from one coast to the other and became an instant hit. Since then she has published or edited 22 books on folklore.

Her greatest accomplishments were her field recordings (which resulted in records on the Folkways label) and her collection of children's stories, riddles and games. *Sally go Round The Sun* is one of the greatest children's books ever published in Canada. At the time of her death she was working on three books. One was with the late Ken Goldstein on *Bawdy Songs from Ontario and Newfoundland*. Another was in conjunction with *Beverlie Robertson*, folksongs of women. I'm not too sure what the third one was.

PER'S FOUR PLAY: Verner's Jig  
Jigs And Reels, LP, 1960, Folkways FW8826  
[This Toronto band played the Eastern Square Dance Music that is so popular with the over 60 crowd of rural Ontario. This album was recorded by Edith, which is unusual in that she was mostly interested in words]

ESTELLE KLEIN: Telephone Interview from Bloomfield Ontario.  
[Estelle met Edith in the 1950s and they became life long friends. When Estelle took over as Artistic Director of the Mariposa Folk Festival in the mid 60s she often linked up with Edith to bring in traditional singers like Tom Brandon to the festival. Estelle is organizing the memorial on May 15 (see below)]

MAUREEN REDDEN: River Through The Pines  
Live In Studio  
[Maureen, who's father Fred was one of Helen Creighton's best sources of folksongs (Folksongs of Nova Scotia, Folkways) only struck up a relationship with Edith in the 90s. They met at Mariposa during a traditional singing workshop and became fast friends. Neither knew the other was living in Toronto or they would have certainly connected up earlier. They were planning to record a new album of folksongs from Edith's collection sung in the traditional way; Maureen still intends to see this project through. Here she sings one of her favourite songs collected by Edith Fowke, a shantyboy song from Ontario.]

BEVERLIE ROBERTSON: Telephone Interview  
[You may know Beverlie yourself if you're on Canfolk listserve. She's a singer herself who was first influenced by Edith when she was just 14. It was *Folksongs of Canada* that made Beverlie realize just how important her cultural heritage was/is. When Edith volunteered to help her in her two decade old dream of producing a book of women's folksongs, she was overcome with joy. And now that Edith's gone, all the more reason to finish this work.]

RICK AVERY AND JUDY GREENHILL: Jolly Raftsmen O / Save Your Money When You're Young  
Harbour Grace, LP, 1981, J&R Records JR001  
84 DURHAM ST, GUELPH, ON CAN N1H 2Y3  
[This was a request by Beverlie. She is good friends with Rick And Judy and sometimes performs with them. Edith, who was also a frequent contributor to the Canadian Folk Music Society Bulletin, and who also wrote academic papers on folklore, also wrote liner notes for many albums. This is one of them]

O.J. ABBOTT: Banks of the Don  
Folksongs of Ontario, LP, 1967, Folkways FM 4005  
[Abbott was a treasure house that Edith stumble' on from a lead she'd

received in the mail. He lived in Hull, Quebec where she recorded him in the late 50s while he was in his mid 80s. Abbott worked the last of the squared timber camps along the Ottawa River when he was young, before the turn of the century. He knew countless Irish songs and songs about the shantyboys. This song is about that venerable institution that sits upon the Don River in Toronto where the room and board is free: The Don Jail]

O.J. ABBOTT: Chapeau Boys  
Lumbering Songs from the Ontario Shanties, LP, 1961, Folkways FM 4052  
[This is the only commercial recording of the famous Chapeau Boys song that I know of. (Well, actually there is a C&W version by Bob King but I don't have that record - never seen it). While anyone in Chapeau will tell you that Abbott used the wrong air (tune) he did remember all the verses correctly. This was requested by Ian Bell]

IAN BELL: Telephone Interview  
[He was watching the Rolling Stones on TV when I called. Ian is a member of a younger generation who were students of Edith's. Anne Lederman was another. They often seeked out Edith's advice and watch her wince when they showed her what they had done to her songs. But she loved them anyway.]

MAUREEN REDDEN: Erin's Green Shore  
[Edith collected a version of this song in Ontario]

The Edith Fowke Memorial Tribute - A Celebration of Edith Fowke's Life and Work  
Wednesday, May 15, 1996 - 3 pm  
Winters College Dining Hall  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Downsview, Ontario  
All are more than welcome to attend  
Host: Author John Robert Columbo  
Singers: Ian Bell, Anne Lederman, Sheldon Posen, Beverlie Robertson, Sharon, Lois and Bram.  
Storyteller: Lorne Brown  
And bring something pink - Edith's favourite colour

One last story about Edith from Priscilla Galloway:  
Many younger people have not made the transition into the electronic age. Edith credits her computer with making her vastly more productive and a better writer. Her first advice to be a writer is, "Get a good computer and learn to use it."

Upcoming Shows:

- May 13: I'm going North: Rick Fielding goes the full 2 hours
- May 20: I'm back and I'll be talking about it
- May 27: Fundraising: Featuring the premier of the brand new True North CD 'Blackie and the Rodeo Kings - High or Hurtin', more new Grievous Angels, special guests and shitloads more.
- June - Celebrating 25 years of True North Records with Bernie Finklestein:
- June 3: The history of True North
- June 10: Bruce Cockburn Tribute: the first 25 years
- June 17: True North now: Blackie & The Rodeo Kings / The Hellbillies and more.
- June 24: Preview of this Summer @ Harbourfront Centre with Derek Andrews

Hey look!

June 2: CIUT and The Great North Wind present TAMARACK at the Flying Cloud Folk Club as part of our fundraising campaign. This will be the Toronto release of their latest CD 'Leaving Inverardon' (Already released in Chapeau, North Ontario).

The Highgrader Magazine is Published by Brit Griffin @ Box 714 Cobalt, Ontario, Canada P0J 1C0. PH 705-679- 5234. The mag is edited by Grievous head honcho Chuck Angus from their home in the old mine manager's home on the northern part of town. It is published in the old general store/butcher, complete with in-store true-to- life mine shaft.

And remember, coming sometime soon, CIUT broadcasts over the net realtime! You'll get us anywhere. Hey, remember to visit Gene Wilburn's web page for Northern Journey On-line: <http://www.io.org/~njo>. The site of the Porcupines. Also site of Rick Fielding's new Home Page and Acoustic Workshop articles. Check out the 'History of the Great North Wind' - 8 glorious years.

-Steve Fruitman

Thanks also to Howard Kaplan for alerting us to this.