

Northern Ontario Blues

©Mac Beattie

Mac Beattie, the quintessential Ottawa Valley singer showed with this tune that he was in touch with the musical currents of the century. "Northern Ontario Blues" is a gentle swing blues

that Bob Wills would have understood. This song, along with a number of others, was included in Beattie's 1982 autobiography, *This Ottawa Valley of Mine*.

NORTHERN ONTARIO BLUES

Mac Beattie

Chorus: *i.* It seems a long time since those old feet of mine have
Northern On-tar-io I've got the blues. How I
walked in-to Sud-bury town. It's been a long day since I
long for your lakes and your trees. How I'd love to re-cline 'neath the
wandered a way from where the Copper Cliff smoke stacks look down.
shade of a pine. with my old fish-ing rod on my knees.
Did'n't know how I felt about the old nickel belt 'til
when the shades of night fall, and the whip-poor-will's call, all
my wan-der-in ways chang'd my views. Now I'm sick of the strife of this
my cares and my wor-ries I lose. And I know peace of mind, in God's
ram-bl-ing life, I've got the Northern On-tar-i-o Blues.
country I'll find. I've got the Northern On-tar-i-o Blues.

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There's a Northern railway,
Leading out of North Bay.
Up along the Temagami line,
Where the old coaches lurch,
Through the poplars and birch,
Up to Kirkland Lake
And Porcupine.
Got to make me some calls,
In at Iroquois Falls.
And at Timmins, old friendships renew.
So I'm packing my sack,
And I'm hitting the track.
I've got the Northern Ontario Blues.

Chorus: