

# Warming Up the Cold Shoulder Seasons with **LIVE MUSIC IN GANANOQUE**

By Lorraine Payette



Cabin fever can more than sneak up on a person and get absolutely out of hand. The tourists have gone to warmer places, many activities have shut down, and there's almost nothing left to do for fun in the off season.

As with many towns in the area, Gananoque sees a large drop in arts and entertainment revenues in the cold weather. Cliff Edwards is changing all that with his successful Cabaret Music Series, held at the Firehall Theatre in Gananoque. He and other area musicians are working together to turn the tourist season into a year round phenomenon, and to encourage people throughout the region to come and enjoy all that the town has to offer.

Each cabaret features local talent, and some include names which have become

household words as well.

"We're doing a music series," says Edwards. "They're all different."

The formula works well, and audiences have started looking forward to the cabarets each season. This is the fourth series and fans will be happy to know that their favourite talents are back again to add that little bit of extra spice to their lives in the coldest part of the year.

December started things off with "Home for Christmas", a sentimental yet lively show which included the talents of Island Voices, Cliff Edwards, Paul Harding, Diane Stapley, Troubadour and Dave Barton. This was just a taste, an ice breaker to bring people into a winter of warmth and music.

Next on the agenda is the January 29th, 30th and 31st show "Country Goes Pop" featuring

Cliff Edwards, Michelle Kaz, Ken Hall, Mark Wilkins, Dan Kasaboski and Duncan Holt. Playing Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sunday, 2:30 pm, the show celebrates country artists Glen Campbell, Crystal Gayle, Eddie Rabbitt, Charlie Rich and Anne Murray, whose work has crossed over into the popular medium. Their greatest hits will be brought out for everyone to enjoy and maybe even sing along.

"An Intimate Evening with Georgette Fry" is offered for Saturday, February 27th, 7:30 pm and Sunday, February 28th at 2:30 pm. The evening promises a mix of Swing, Blues and Jazz from this talented Kingston performer as she does her own renditions of great songs from popular singers.

On April 2nd and 3rd, look forward to "Fiddle & Song" with Turpins Trail. Shows are Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2:30 pm, and feature all of your favourite Celtic/Irish and folk music. Always a joy to attend, keep an eye out for some special guests to liven things up.

Last for the season will be "Swingtime", known as the Nostalgic Sounds Big Band, with guest vocalists Diane Stapley and Cliff Edwards. You don't have to remember the '40s to love the music, and this full ten piece big band will be pulling out all the stops as they bring you the music of the swing era. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, April 29th and 30th at 7:30pm, and Sunday May 1st at 2:30 pm. **LH**

Tickets are \$25 per person per performance for the remainder of the series. Group rates are \$22 per person with a minimum of 10 people per group. Taxes are applicable to all ticket prices. For more information, please call the Thousand Islands Playhouse box office at 613-382-7020 or order on-line at [www.1000islandsplayhouse.com](http://www.1000islandsplayhouse.com).