

Glenn's Story

Chuck recently sent me a picture of he and Canadian all-time singer-songwriter icon Gordon Lightfoot.

It was one of the most pleasant e-mail surprises that I've had in a while, given the environment of Viagra offers, garbage stock tips and Paris Hilton "exclusive" pics and info.

So now some background - I hope it is of some interest.

I've known Chuck since about 1973, when I was running a fairly distinguished music based coffee house in Toronto, called The Riverboat (Google it, it's got some history). Lightfoot got his start at the Riverboat, as did Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, Bruce Cockburn and many others.

Anyhow, going back to the day, this moustached guy kept knocking at the back door, the entrance used by artists, the owners and actual important people. He was always carrying a guitar case, which he seemed to think was the same as a duly purchased admission ticket.

I'm not a bad guy, so whenever possible I let him in. We struck up a few conversations, played a little music together (I was an aspiring guitar player at the time) and became friends.

Chuck will admit, I'm sure, that he did tend to lean on a good thing and I had to fend off the owner from time to time.

It was all fair game - Chuck was just soaking it all in and frankly, I opened the door and let him in, so the owner was my problem, not his. He was in the spot where he wanted to be, doing what he needed to do.

This is all a preamble to seeing the aforementioned pics with Chuck and Gordon Lightfoot, one of Chuck's all time heroes and one of the very finest practitioners of the art and craft of the singer-songwriter.

I had to know the story of their getting together.

I thought it may have been an elaborate play, something complex and calculated with this person talking to that, precise arrival times, backstage contacts and all the dramatic stuff..

Turns out it was about the same as the Riverboat. Chuck just hung in, hung out and was in the right place at the right time.

Consequently, he saw one of his life's ambitions, actually meeting and being photographed with Gordon Lightfoot, come to pass. Good on ya, Chuck.

Just a passing thought - you get this kind of luck and you don't buy lottery tickets...??

A lot of stuff has come and gone with both of us in the 30-odd years of our friendship. I'm glad you're happy, healthy, still playing music (so I wish I were) and getting the wonderful comments that I've seen on your site.

All the best,

Glenn Sernyk
Toronto Canada



"Chuck Micallef with Canada's Folk Laureate Gordon Lightfoot"
Backstage Halifax Metro Centre May 12th 2007