

Vermilion Allied Arts 1st Season Performance

Sheri Heller
Submitted

If you go down to the crossroads of roots and soul, you'll find singer, songwriter and guitarist Charlie A'Court, whose honest purpose in life is to connect people, one emotion at a time.

Growing up in the rural village of MacCallum Settlement (outside of Truro, Nova Scotia), Charlie A'Court had little to rely on for entertainment except his imagination and music. Spending hours every day delving into his father's collection of vinyl, Charlie would lose himself in a world of blues, roots, soul and folk. "I was discovering singers like Otis Redding and Sam Cooke and I remember being so profoundly moved and almost not old enough to know why," says A'Court. "There was something honest about the way they sang. They would sing with such conviction that simply commanded attention."

It wasn't long before Charlie A'Court discovered albums featuring blistering blues guitar. Artists like B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Albert Collins and Albert King made their way to the top of the pile and to the ears of a young, imaginative A'Court. Charlie A'Court recalls, "These guys would wail in a way where every note mattered. They sang without apology and played guitar like it was their last day." It was a guitarist from England that changed the way A'Court would look at blues. "Eric Clapton really opened my mind as a musician. He was taking blues and showing it could be contemporary. Clapton's music showed me that my music could balance between blues and adult contemporary songwriting."

Fearlessly bridging genres and challenging stylistic conventions, Charlie A'Court has toured Canada and abroad, with headline performances at the Stan Rogers Folk Fest (CAN), Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival (CAN), Kerrville Folk Fest (USA) and Woodford Folk Festival (AUS). A'Court has shared

the stage with high profile artists including James Cotton, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, George Thorogood, Harry Manx, Martin Sexton, Delbert McClinton, Colin James and Dan Aykroyd.

Tickets will be available at Fantasy Flowers, Vermilion, AB. Tickets \$30.00.

The Vermilion Allied Arts Council participates in the Eyeago program, which enables students to purchase tickets at the door for \$5.00-school photo ID required.



Charlie A'Court. Photo submitted.

Gillett's Special ALS Challenge

Margaret Gillett
Submitted

"I nominate James Gillett, McMaster University, Hamilton; Bev Debries, Vernon, B.C.; Travis Smith, Calgary, Alberta; and Darla from Sherwood Park, Alberta," Margaret Gillett stated before she was doused with a bucket of ice water.

"My brother, Ken Ross, passed away from ALS when he was 57 years old, so I thought it would be suitable for me to take the ALS challenge."

ALS, aka: Lou Gehrig's disease, stands for Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. 'A' absence of 'myo' muscle 'trophic' nourishment 'lateral' side of spine 'sclerosis' hardening.

The brain sends messages through the motor neurons to the voluntary muscles. ALS destroy motor neurons. Leg and foot muscles are controlled by motor neurons in the upper spinal cord. Speaking, swallowing, and chewing

are controlled by motor neurons in the brain stem of the back.

Respiratory muscles are controlled by motor neurons in the upper and thoracic levels (midsection) of the spinal cord.

ALS does not affect the five senses: sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell or the eye muscles, bladder, or bowel.

ALS is not contagious, it is a degeneration (wasting) of motor neurons in either the upper or lower portions of the spine, muscle weakness and atrophy, weakened reflexes, decreased muscle tone, difficulty swallowing, inability to articulate speech, and shortness of breath at rest.

Until the Ice Bucket Challenge began, ALS did all their fundraising from walks, which were not very well attended. Gillett spoke of how pleased she is that finally something more is being done to fund further research and support for the families who suffer from this condition.



"It's like diving into a lake!"



Gillett's brother, Ken Ross, died of ALS in 2008. Photos submitted.

Alberta Farmer: Cerial Mauws Jr.

Billi-Jean Miller
Submitted

This is what 73 years of love, commitment, loyalty, pride and hard work look like. And, that's not his age! Cerial Mauws Jr. turned 87 this October. This fall, though, was his 73rd year of working the full harvest on his 102-year-old (and counting) farm.

Mauws Farms received its Alberta Farm Centennial Plaque two summers ago. This harvest, though, marked another milestone for the farm. Cerial Mauws Jr. (a second generation farmer from the Earlie District) completed his 73rd full harvest on that farm. Cerial's dad filed for homestead on April 19, 1910. Cerial Sr. and his brother Jules (or the "Mauws Boys", as they were known) came from Belgium. Today - Cerial Jr. is the patriarch of that family and that farm and still lives there today. Not many people other than him can say they've seen so much change; and at the same time, not many have seen that much permanence, either.

Cerial has always lived here. He has, also, always had the same neighbors - the Millers. In 1911, David Miller (the 1st) walked south from the Kitchicoty train looking for his land plot. When he found it - he saw a light that beckoned from nearby. He walked over to a shack and was met by two men: Cerial Sr. and Jules Mauws. David's new neighbors gave him food;

and from that night on became friends. That was 102 years ago. Ever since that day; it has been a century long friendship between the two families. The Millers and the Mauws' are still neighbors. Today, David Miller IV (or "Dean" as he's more commonly called) lives across the road from Mr. Mauws. Dean is the 4th Generation Miller to be living on that neighboring farm and I happen to be married to him.

73 years..... 73 harvests; 100 years

of friendship. Cerial Mauws Jr was born in the Lloydminster Hospital on October 4, 1925. 86 years later at 11:11pm on November 1st in that same Hospital, his newest neighbor (our daughter Madeline) was born. Madeline Lily Miller is the 5th Generation of Miller that Cerial Jr. has known. That's a lot of history -- and, that's right in our backyard.

This October 4, 2014 - Cerial Mauws will turn 89 years old. He is ready to board

the combine for his 75th harvest.

Billi-Jean Miller (David Dean Miller's wife) is a farm life photographer in the Lloydminster area. She offers candid and real-life photography of prairie farming families, and their farms. www.billijmiller-photography.com. She writes for the Vermilion Voice, is a member of Professional Writers Association of Canada (PWAC), and is currently writing a book profiling some of the areas Farmwives.



Cerial M. Mauws finishes up his 73rd harvest -- with a little help from his successors. Individuals: Cerial M. Mauws (front); L-R Dutch Mauws; Billy Mauws; Dustin Mauws; Charlie Mauws. Missing: Shelby White. Photo Billi-Jean Miller.

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