

# Maritimes are my home - Anne Murray



Photos by Terry Fenwick

By SUSAN MILLER

"I was scared. Coming home is hard to do, and most performers won't do it. The Maritimes are my home, not just Springhill." Perhaps it was hard, but Anne Murray made a success of her homecoming performance in Fredericton last week.

Anne is currently on a whirlwind Maritime tour, but the stop in Fredericton had a special significance for her. As a Phys. Ed. student at UNB several years ago, she had been dragged onto the stage of the Red 'n Black Revue. She sang "A Little Bit of Soap" with "...knocking knees and a mouthful of tonsils. I wore some kind of skirt and sweater. I must have looked just lovely!" Before this show she had auditioned for Singalong Jubilee in the hopes of getting a summer job. Her tonsils were her downfall, and she was not accepted.

Two years later she was asked to audition again. "I wasn't going to do it", she said. "I told them they had hurt my pride when they first turned me down."

Eventually she did, this time without her tonsils. "The difference was amazing. There's so much more room for your voice!"

Anne records on the Capitol label, and feels that recording facilities in Canada are just as good as those found in the United States. She said that the 30 percent Canadian content ruling was "necessary, and I think a good thing." However, she considers its effect on her career to be minimal. "Television has done a lot for me in this country," she said. "It's the only way you're going to get to the folks."

Although she enjoyed taping television shows with Glen Campbell, she was afraid of becoming permanently labelled as a country and western singer. Offers to tour with Glen Campbell were therefore turned down, and she continued "...to do my own thing."

Anne likes shows that are flexible enough to allow for ad libs and the establishment of a genuine rapport with her audience. "I saw one of Wayne Newton's shows in Los Vegas. He's a good singer, but every single move he makes on stage is planned beforehand. I couldn't do that."



Anne Murray — the girl who several years ago had to be dragged into performing for Red and Black. Today she's an international success. Anne was in Fredericton last week as part of a "coming home" tour through the Maritimes.

"I'm no longer nervous about performing, but I'm never sure of what the audience expects." Anne explained that hometown audiences want a performer to be the same as before, "and I feel that basically I am, only older and wiser."

The music for Anne's recordings is arranged by Brian Ahearn. "We never lack material. Once you have a hit single, writers flood you with their songs. Right now we have thousands of demo tapes. Some are not good, but there's always some fair or promising

material. Even if you can't use those particular songs, you remember the name of the writer because you feel he'll get better."

One of the few luxuries Anne allows herself is a seven-man band. "It took time and work to get them together," said Anne, "but now they're really great." Some of the musicians in the band will eventually go off on their own.

"Talented people are continually being drawn from the Maritimes. They play in a band, or travel with a performer like myself, to get nationwide exposure as well as experience on a stage. Then they're on their own."

In such a manner is John Allan Cameron now getting introduced to the music business. Anne likes his style, saying, "He's freaky enough to get somewhere."

As a well-known performer Anne is often contacted by various charities to do commercials and boost fund-raising campaigns. "You get so many," says Anne, "and you just choose one to concentrate on." Anne chose the Association for Mentally Retarded Children.

"Once in Halifax I sang to a small group of mentally retarded children and their parents. It made them so happy that I started visiting them. Later on I went to the Association and offered my assistance. Now when I'm touring I try to find time to visit the children where I am, but this tour is too



fast." In recognition of her interest, Anne has been made an Honorary President of the Association.

Before Anne made singing her career, she had been teaching for a year. "I enjoyed it," she said, "but I'll definitely stay with music!"



## Shinerama big success

By DERWIN GOWAN

Last Saturday, between 400 and 500 UNB students turned out for Shinerama, an undertaking by university campuses across the country to support research into Cystic Fibrosis. According to Orientation Comptroller Brian McCloskey, \$4408 was collected on Saturday. On top of this, there are donations yet to come from local businesses and the sale of left over shoe-shine kits to cover expenses. Anything left over will be added to what was brought in on Saturday. The final figure will probably exceed \$4500 said McCloskey.


McCloskey believes this com-

pires favorably with UNBSJ, who he believes raised \$5200 in 2 days.

For transportation, two busses were rented, and another was donated from Clarke's. The use of two vans was also donated, and some private cars were used.

McCloskey said that all of this money goes directly into research in Cystic Fibrosis, and in support of persons afflicted with CF. The expenses are not taken from this, but are paid with the donations from local businesses.

With respect to public acceptance of Shinerama, McCloskey said, "I haven't heard of any problems at all."



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