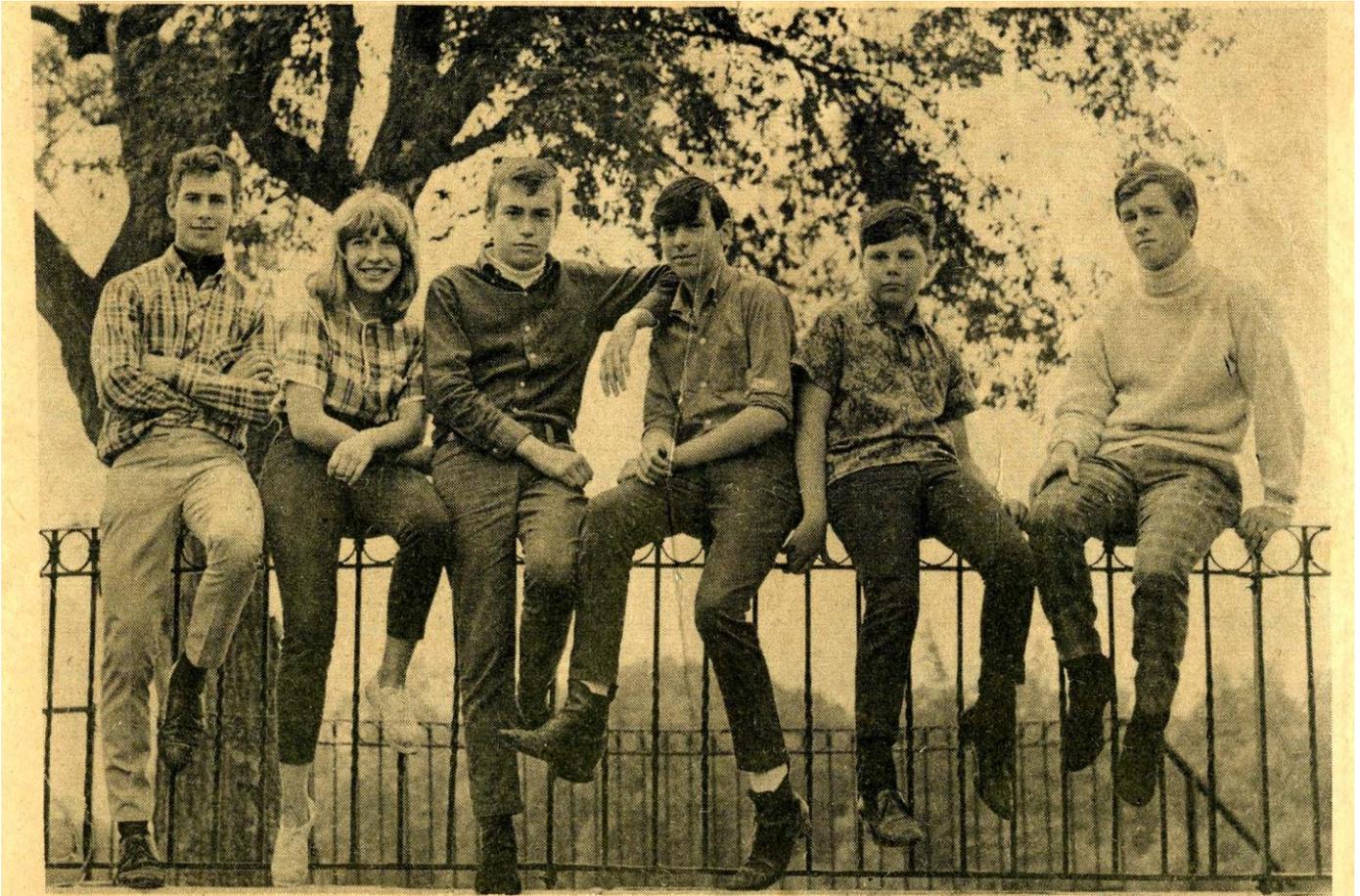


Ian Gardiner, Bass Player

Written by Michele Miles Gardiner



THESE YOUNG ST. JAMES MUSICIANS, CALLING THEMSELVES THE PAGANS, have joined the ever growing-ups of local singers and instrumentalists providing music for the entertainment and enjoyment of the younger crowd. Seated on the railing are, left to right, drummer Wayne Fraser, organist Judy Hemming, rhythm guitarist Greg Hemming, lead singer Bill Keith, Ian Gardiner, bass, and lead guitarist Glen Hall.

The musicians are all students, ranging in age from 13 to 18 years. Persons interested in hearing them perform may contact Greg at VE2-4913, or Ian at VE2-4292.

Ian Gardiner, my husband, is a bass player who has played with Burton Cummings, formerly of the Guess Who, Lenny Breau, Randy Bachman and many other musicians. He produced Bo Diddley, The Bonedaddys and The Delphines; engineered Supertramp and The Knack, and more. Now he designs recording consoles and pro audio gear more often than he plays bass, but I keep telling him he should write a bio. So he's begun giving me some insight into his early days as a musician.

Ian was born December 4, 1952 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Winnipeg, it seems, was a vortex of creativity, as the place bred so many artistic people: Burton Cummings, Neil Young, Randy Bachman, Lenny Breau, Terry Jacks, among many others.

Winnipeg author and rock historian John Einarson, said of Winnipeg's music scene: "Winnipeg's isolation allowed for a strong and vibrant local music scene to grow and flourish. We weren't on the touring circuit, so much of the live music we enjoyed was generated locally. Another key factor was the existence of dozens of community clubs which gave neighbourhood kids a venue to perform live. It was music at a grassroots level and very exciting."

So, in 1965, at the age of thirteen, inspired after watching The Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show, Ian joined his first band, *Ragnar and the Pagans*. Ian's band mates: Glen Hall, Greg Hemming, Bill Keith, Judy Hemming and Wayne Fraser.

Of those days, Ian said:

"Winnipeg, at that time, had the best music scene in Canada, by far. Each neighborhood had a community club, which consisted of a hockey rink, or two, and a hall with a stage where dances were held Friday, Saturday and sometimes on Sunday nights. Back then, there was no drinking or drugs. The main rush was just seeing all of the bands. The girls would dance and the guys would stand at the front of the stage watching the musicians. On any given weekend you could see The Deverons, with lead singer and keyboard player Burton Cummings, whom I would later play and tour with, or the Guess Who, with Randy Bachman, whom I would also play and record with later.

"I had a great friend, Glen Hall, who had the best taste in music and would turn us on to some great musicians, like Frank Zappa. We would listen for hours to new records in Glen's basement; many were from England, with the floppy thin jackets of bands that were brand new and hadn't reached Canada yet. Glenn and I started to get interested in Jazz a little later and would start buying a huge amount of Jazz recordings. Also, we were fortunate to have one of the greatest jazz guitarists in the world living and playing in Winnipeg: Lenny Breau. I would later play bass with Lenny for a couple of years. What an amazing experience."

Ian would later go on to play with Burton Cummings, Randy Bachman and many more artists. He has also written songs, produced and engineered. Eventually, Ian returned to another childhood interest of his, designing and building things. Since 1996, He has designed and manufactured custom professional audio gear and recording consoles in his two businesses: Boutique Audio & Design, which I run with him, and Tree Audio, with his partner Steve Firlotte from Inward Connections. So he's tied together his passions of music, electronics and design.

More to come - I have to get Ian to tell me more about his teen years playing with jazz greats like Lenny Breau and his days with Burton Cummings and the other rock bands. Stay tuned!