**Bob Bartlett Bio**

Bob started his music career as a youngster playing clarinet and sax in the Burlington junior and senior concert bands but when his family moved to Vancouver, he saw the light and started playing guitar. Through high school and university Bob played in a number of folk groups and continued that when he started teaching high school geography. Bob also sponsored folk groups in several Toronto area schools. In the early ’70’s he began to play tenor banjo and established Dixieland bands in the schools where he taught; and he continued that pursuit in the high school in Mattawa where he taught English and music from 1979 to 1991. Retirement from his 23 year teaching career marked the start of a major change for Bob as he started a 27 year career as a blacksmith and farrier for the local equestrian community. During all this time, though, Bob was always involved in some sort of musical group.

While still in Toronto, Bob was a member of The Marvellous Moustache Band that played in many clubs in the Toronto area and had a month engagement at a hotel in Regina. He also had a number of subbing gigs in Toronto playing tenor banjo in places such as Diamond Lil’s in the Skyline Hotel. In the late ’80’s Bob was asked to play electric bass in The Continentals, a big band in North Bay. That was the start of his jazz career that has continued to the present as Bob plays in groups such as Night Shift, Manhattan, Twilight and the Restoration Jazz Band. Bob switched from electric bass to double bass in 2015. He has been taking classical bass lessons and has had the opportunity to help out with a youth orchestra.

Most recently Bob has been playing bluegrass music at festivals in various parts of Ontario as the bassist for a band called Simply Blu and is continuing on with the Restoration Jazz Band playing double bass and tenor banjo. He loves jamming with friends playing roots music and jazz, and working on the fine art of playing double bass with a bow. To round out his retirement, Bob keeps his hand in his other passion by doing blacksmith demonstrations at various museums and at the Marten River Provincial Park.