



PROMINENT LUNENBURGERS
Remembering the People that Make Us Special
1753-2013

Norman Byron "Dutch" Mason

b. 19 February 1938 in Lunenburg, d. 23 December 2006

Associated Places: Lunenburg Academy, Mason's Beach

Contributions: Music

A descendant of Lunenburg's first 'Foreign Protestant' settlers, Norman Mason attended the Academy until the age of 12, when his family relocated to Kentville. His strong Lunenburg accent stayed with him, however, and he was given the name 'Dutch' by his new friends.

Dutch got his start as a drummer in his parents' swing band. He later moved to guitar to play rock-and-roll, but his musical career took an entirely new direction when he heard 'Sweet Little Angel' by American blues artist BB King. From then on he became an 'evangelist' for the blues, releasing twelve albums from 1968 to 2004 and playing shows across Canada.

Widely regarded as a pioneer in the Canadian music scene, Dutch Mason became known as the "Prime Minister of the Blues," and received many accolades over the course of his career. He was nominated for a Juno Award in 1994, and was an original inductee to the Canadian Jazz and Blues Hall of Fame. In 2005 his final album was nominated for an East Coast Music Award, he received the inaugural ECMA Lifetime Achievement Award, and he was awarded the Order of Canada. The same year he saw his son Garrett win a Juno for Best Blues Album.

The Dutch Mason Award is given at Fredericton's Harvest Jazz and Music Festival, and Nova Scotia's Dutch Mason Blues Festival has run annually since 2004. Dutch Mason died in 2006.

Courtesy Lunenburg
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