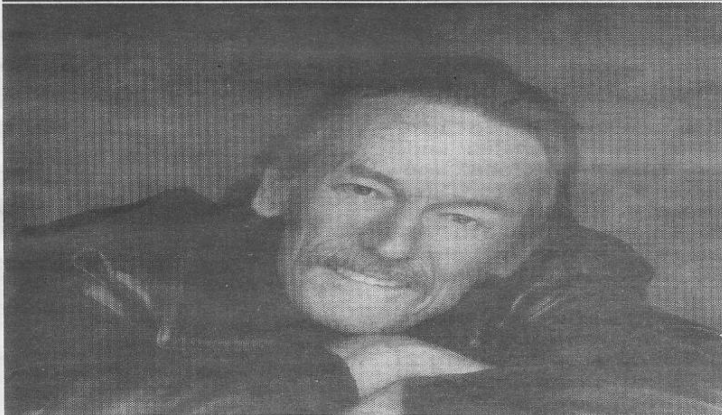


Gordon Lightfoot

Nov. 17, 1938

It's Our History, Our Country



RONALD WOLF
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Gordon Meredith Lightfoot, Jr. is a Canadian singer and songwriter who has achieved international success in folk, country, and popular rock music.

Lightfoot was born in Orillia, Ont., about 135 kms. North of Toronto. His father was the manager of a large dry cleaning firm. His mother recognized Lightfoot's musical talent and schooled him into a successful child performer. His first public tune was Too Ra Loo Ra Loo Ral (An Irish Lullaby) in grade four, which was broadcast over his school's public address system on a parents' day event. In high school,

Lightfoot performed extensively and eventually became largely self-taught in playing folk guitar. He was influenced during this time by 19th-century master American songwriter Stephen Foster. He was also

an accomplished high school track-and-field competitor and set school records for shot put and pole vault.

He has been married twice. His first marriage in April 1963 was to a Swedish woman, Brita Ingegerd Olaisson, with whom he had two children, Fred and Ingrid. They divorced in 1973.

After being alone for 19 years between marriages, he married Elizabeth Moon in 1989, and they have two children: Miles and Meredith. In 1976, Lightfoot had a hit song about a shipwreck on Lake Superior. In late November 1975, Lightfoot had read a Newsweek magazine article about the tragic loss of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald which sank during a severe storm on Nov. 10 with the loss of all 29 crew members. His song, The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald, most of the lyrics of which were based on the facts contained in the article, reached #2 on the United States Billboard charts, and was a #1 hit in Canada. Sundown and The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald continue to receive heavy airplay on many classic rock stations. In

1978, Lightfoot had another top 40 hit on the United States Hot 100, The Circle Is Small (I Can See It In Your Eyes), which reached #33.

By January 2002, Lightfoot had written 30 new songs for his next studio album. He recorded guitar and vocal demos of some of these new songs. In September, before the second concert of a two-night stand in Orillia, Lightfoot suffered severe stomach pain and was airlifted to McMaster Medical Centre in Hamilton, Ont. He underwent surgery for a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm, and he remained in serious condition in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Lightfoot endured a six-week coma and a tracheotomy, and he underwent four surgical operations. All of his remaining 2002 concert dates were canceled. More than three months after being taken to the McMaster Medical Center, Lightfoot was released in December to continue his recovery at home.

In 2003, Lightfoot underwent follow-up surgery to continue the treatment of his abdominal condition.

In July 2004, he made a surprise comeback performance since falling ill at Mariposa in Orillia, performing I'll Tag Along solo.

On Sept. 14, 2006, while in the middle of a performance, Lightfoot suffered a minor stroke that eventually left him without the use of the middle and ring fingers on his right hand. He returned to performing nine days later and for a brief time used a substitute guitarist for more difficult guitar work. Since early 2007, however, Lightfoot has regained full use of his right hand and plays all of the guitar parts in concert as he originally wrote them. He has continued to perform into 2009.

In February 2010, Gordon Lightfoot was the victim of a death hoax originating from Twitter, when a prankster spread a rumor that Lightfoot had died. Gordon was at a dental appointment at the time the rumors spread and found out when listening to the radio on his drive home. Lightfoot

dispelled those rumors by phoning Charles Adler of CJOB, the DJ and radio station he heard reporting his demise, and did an interview expressing that he was alive and well.

Lightfoot is alive and his legacy lives on in music, TV and It's Our History, Our Country.

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