



Madeleine “Maddy” Engh

(1936 -)

Madeleine “Maddy” Engh (nee Belanger) was born on May 17th 1936 just outside Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. She grew up on the family farm where she helped her siblings chop wood and clean as well as attend school, believing “[she] was a tomboy as a result.” The family spent their time together listening to country music off their old gramophone, and Maddy’s passion for music was born.

In 1946, Maddy and her family boarded a train and traveled across Canada to British Columbia. Settling in Mission, she was enrolled in the local High School. Here she found joy in studying and reading ahead but decided to leave high school in grade 10 to get a head start on life.

Packing shakes at sixteen, Maddy’s life changed after marrying Leonard Engh in 1953. At her wedding a man read a poem about them, and deeply inspired by this, she has since written and performed a song for every event she’s attended. Together for 31 years before their marriage ended, Maddy and her husband had 6 children: Gary, Randy, Laurie, Val, Martin, and Leona.

While raising her children, Maddy started to study house listings and land prices. With her husband, she began fixing and selling properties, building savings for her dream, to buy her own farm. Finding a twenty-acre property in Hatzic prairie, she began raising animals and eventually, growing Christmas trees. Many of her proudest memories came from the farm especially from caring for her animals, whom she credits with helping her carry the struggles she’s gone through as an adult

In 2011, Maddy gained momentum with her music and songwriting. She started entering singing competitions and won second and third place in the Senior Star competition and the Golden Idol Contest respectively. Her music credits then grew to include an album titled “A Babe of Her Own” in 2013, and an EP titled “Sixgun Memory” which debuted on the National airplay Top 50 Country Charts in 2014.

In 2015, Maddy started to work on other writing projects, creating a Country Musical titled “Kimberly” which was performed at Creative Edge in Abbotsford in January 2020 after 4 years of work. In 2023, she self-published a memoir titled “Once a Farmer” which followed the twists in her life, printed at Sue’s CopyPlace. All profits were donated to the Mission Hospice Society in memory of her daughter, Val (1962 – 2018).

At present, Maddy continues to take care of her farm and write songs. She intends to approach some film studios with the script of her musical to make it into a movie. When asked what she would like to be remembered for, Maddy replied “For the good times that families shared when came for their Christmas tree at my farm.”

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