

# BLACKBURN, Max (cont)

Lately he's been playing guitar and piano with the harmonica band at nursing homes, legion halls or occasionally at the hospital, but he still gets the urge to play clubs.

Not too long ago he had his friends and some staff members at the Quinte Living Centre wondering where he had disappeared to for a few days. "I was at the Coronation Club in Toronto," he laughs. "Once you've played those places you can just show up and they'll welcome you with open arms."

But whether he's playing at a night club, at a nursing home or at a corn roast, Blackburn will tell you he is delighted playing for an audience. As a veteran audience pleaser, he insists on playing

songs his listeners will enjoy. All too often, he says, a performer will play what he or she wants and not necessarily what the audience wants to hear.

"Sometimes you'll see somebody (a musician) play and they'll open up with Flight of the Bumblebee or whatever they want," he says. "But I always find out what type of people are there and then you play what they like."

A Belleville resident for about three years, Blackburn previously lived in Brantford and St. Petersburg, Florida, where he lived for a decade.

"I had 10 citrus trees in my lot," he says of his Florida home. "I'd play at this one club and bring in some limes. Man, that bartender just loved me!"

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