



the
top
100
CANADIAN
singles

Bob
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author of the best-selling
The Top 100 Canadian Albums

17 Life Is A Highway

Tom Cochrane

Capitol, 1991

“I was on the road with Tom when this song started to hit. It was a great experience watching the reaction to this tune getting crazier and crazier.”

— Mike Campbell, manager, The Carleton

The period leading up to “Life Is A Highway” was emotional for Tom Cochrane. He was about to go solo. After years of recording with his group Red Rider, Cochrane was facing a split with his long-time music partner, steel guitar player Ken Greer. It wasn’t an abrupt separation, but it had become obvious the two needed to go in different directions — very different, as it turned out. Greer hit the road with Gowan, while Cochrane went to Africa.

He’d become involved with the World Vision charity, and was asked to go to Mozambique, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Devastating famine was affecting tens of millions of people in these African nations. Back home, he did the interviews and spoke to his fans for the charity. The trip had left a deep mark on him. He described himself as mentally, physically, and spiritually exhausted at this time, and needed something to pull him out of a bleak mood.

Without Greer, Cochrane had begun to work on material on his own in his home studio. It was taking on a harder, more rhythm and blues edge. One number he’d had kicking around since the sessions for the 1984 *Breaking Curfew* album was a sketch called “Love Is A Highway”. His mood still down, he woke in the middle of the night, inspired, and within a couple of hours, he’d changed the words and finished what would become his biggest hit. Instead of reflecting on the dire poverty he’d seen in Africa, Cochrane knew he needed something inspiring. It was his own cure, a refreshing, upbeat song that instantly changed his mood, and its positive energy was the key.

Instantly memorable, the song spread like a virus, with people singing its chorus and quoting the lyrics. Even David Letterman picked up on the lines, repeating them over and over for several nights. Inevitably, Cochrane appeared on the influential show, which helped push the song into the

US Top 10 after it had already topped the Canadian charts. With the video of “Life Is A Highway”, shot in Alberta’s Badlands, Cochrane conquered all the media in 1991. The album that featured the song, *Mad Mad World*, reached diamond status in Canada, with more than one million copies sold. The single and the album also earned Cochrane four Juno awards.

Cochrane has continued his work for World Vision with more trips to Africa, as well as supporting other worthy causes in a long and distinguished career in charity work. He even teamed up with Greer a decade later, the Red Rider name proudly on display again. “Life Is A Highway” became a huge hit all over again in 2006 with a cover by Rascal Flatts from the movie *Cars*. And every time it comes on the radio, it still has that uplifting power, the musical cure Cochrane was searching for.

MY TOP 10 CANADIAN SINGLES

Aaron Pritchett

One of the biggest country stars in Canada, Vancouver native Pritchett's hits include "New Frontier", "Big Wheel", "Hellbent for Buffalo", and 2006's "Hold My Beer", the Canadian Country Music Association's Song Of The Year. Although country is his main gig, Pritchett grew up surrounded by all types of music, loves Elvis and Stevie Wonder, and listens to everything from hip-hop to symphonies to jazz. He says his Top 10 list is in no particular order.

1. **HOME** – Michael Bublé

I loved this song from the first time I heard it. I thought it was only because he was from my hometown of Vancouver, but it's because this song is brilliant, in my mind, and he's an amazing vocalist.

2. **JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME** – April Wine

I remember hearing this song when I was a kid around the time I had my first girlfriend. It was my first love song.

3. **MY OWN WAY TO ROCK** – Burton Cummings

My parents listened to this record of Burton's a lot, but I really dug it and used to play it in the band.

4. **BIG LEAGUE** – Tom Cochrane & Red Rider

Being a hockey player all my life and knowing a young boy who passed away while playing hockey back in the eighties, I really related to this and always thought it was a great song.

5. **WE'RE HERE FOR A GOOD TIME (NOT A LONG TIME)** – Trooper

The ultimate party tune for Canadians... or for anyone in this world!



6. **YOU OUGHTA KNOW** – Alanis Morissette

Alanis mentioned that she channelled the songs on *Jagged Little Pill* and they were all great, but for radio, I think this was the best one.

7. **NEW ORLEANS IS SINKING** – The Tragically Hip

I didn't know what to think of The Hip when I first heard them, but then I got it and thought they were the coolest new sound I had heard in 1990.

8. **TRY** – Blue Rodeo

This was the first BR song I'd ever heard and I thought, if this is what all their music is like, then I'm a fan... and still am today because of "Try".



9. **HOW YOU REMIND ME** – Nickelback

I love that this song started the whole Nickelback phenomenon and when played, it still gets people riled up!

10. **THESE EYES** – The Guess Who

Again, a Burton Cummings song that I grew up listening to on vinyl on a record player that was the size of a '72 Gran Torino. This is a song that I still have on my music player today that is the size of a breath strip. Although the ways of playing music have changed drastically, one thing has remained the same: there will always be great Canadian music!

MY TOP 10 CANADIAN SINGLES

Bubbles

Actor, philosopher, musician, bar owner, cat whisperer, and cart-fixer, Bubbles is entertainment royalty in Canada. He serves as muse to some of the great musicians of our day, and has worked in close collaboration with Rush, The Tragically Hip, Guns N' Roses, Snow, George Canyon, and Sandbox. His life has been chronicled in touching detail on the sensitive and thought-provoking TV series *Trailer Park Boys*, and his on-screen charisma has led to a major motion picture career, including 2009's *Countdown To Liquor Day*. Denny Doherty, a fellow Haligonian and founding member of The Mamas and the Papas, once referred to Bubbles as "that weird guy with the glasses I had to get a restraining order on."



- 1. LIMELIGHT – Rush**
It was a toss-up between this and "Closer To The Heart", but the guitar riff at the start of this one makes my bird point straight up!!!
- 2. MONDAY, MONDAY – The Mamas and the Papas**
One of the greatest voices ever! And from just outside Sunnyvale Trailer Park!! God Love Denny!
- 3. CINNAMON GIRL – Neil Young**
I'm not sure what a cinnamon girl is, but I love ladies and I love a big dirty warm cinnamon roll in the morning so...

- 4. THESE EYES – The Guess Who**
I like blinking along to the piano part of this one.
- 5. LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HAPPEN – The Tragically Hip**
I like to think Gord wrote this about my kitties sizing up the litter box.
- 6. INFORMER – Snow**
A salmonella-poisoned can o' nails — a leaky boom boom down!



- 7. THE WRECK OF THE EDMUND FITZGERALD – Gordon Lightfoot**
I won't get on a fucking boat to this day



- because of this one. Terrifying!
- 8. BIG LEAGUE – Tom Cochrane & Red Rider**
This was all I listened to when I was writing letters to NASA trying to become a spaceman.
 - 9. SAY HELLO – April Wine**
This is one of the best songs out there for doing dirty stuff to.
 - 10. SNOWBIRD – Anne Murray**
You get this when you're tobogganing — if the bottom zipper of your snowsuit isn't done up tight!!

TOP 100 HIT PARADE

THE TOP 100 CANADIAN SINGLES

1. AMERICAN WOMAN/ NO SUGAR TONIGHT	The Guess Who	RCA, 1970	51. MONTRÉAL -40°	MALAJUBE	DARE TO CARE, 2006
2. HEART OF GOLD	Neil Young	Reprise, 1972	52. CINNAMON GIRL	NEIL YOUNG	REPRISE, 1969
3. THE WEIGHT	The Band	Capitol, 1968	53. YOU DUSHTA KNOW	ALANIS MORISSETTE	MAVERICK, 1995
4. SUMMER OF '69	Bryan Adams	A&M, 1985	54. 1234	FEIST	ARTS & CRAFTS, 2007
5. HALLELUJAH	Leonard Cohen	Columbia, 1984	55. REBELLION (LIES)	ARCADE FIRE	MERGE, 2004
6. BORN TO BE WILD	Steppenwolf	Dunhill, 1968	56. CONSTANT CRAVING	K.D. LANG	SIRE, 1992
7. IF YOU COULD READ MY MIND	Gordon Lightfoot	Reprise, 1970	57. ROCKIN' IN THE FREE WORLD	NEIL YOUNG	REPRISE, 1989
8. TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS	Bachman-Turner Overdrive	Mercury, 1974	58. LOVIN' YOU AIN'T EASY	PAGLIARO	MUCH, 1971
9. FOUR STRONG WINDS	Ian & Sylvia	Vanguard, 1963	59. LOVERS IN A DANGEROUS TIME	BRUCE COCKBURN	TRUE NORTH, 1984
10. SNOWBIRD	Anne Murray	Capitol, 1970	60. SOB-CAYGEON	THE TRAGICALLY HIP	UNIVERSAL, 1998
11. BIG YELLOW TAXI	JONI MITCHELL	REPRISE, 1970	61. A CASE OF YOU/CALIFORNIA	JONI MITCHELL	REPRISE, 1971
12. TOM SAWYER	RUSH	MERCURY, 1981	62. NEW YORK CITY	THE DEMICS	READY, 1979
13. TRY	BLUE RODEO	RISQUE DISQUE, 1987	63. (EVERYTHING I DO) I DO IT FOR YOU	BRYAN ADAMS	A&M, 1991
14. NEW ORLEANS IS SINKING	THE TRAGICALLY HIP	MCA, 1989	64. AHEAD BY A CENTURY	THE TRAGICALLY HIP	MCA, 1996
15. THE WRECK OF THE EDMUND FITZGERALD	GORDON LIGHTFOOT	REPRISE, 1976	65. 5 DAYS IN MAY	BLUE RODEO	WARNER, 1993
16. SUZANNE	LEONARD COHEN	COLUMBIA, 1967	66. I'M MOVIN' ON	HANK SNOW	RCA, 1950
17. LIFE IS A HIGHWAY	ROM DOOHYRANE	CAPITOL, 1991	67. POUR UN INSTANT	HARMONIUM	POLYGRAM, 1974
18. THESE EYES	THE GUESS WHO	NIMBUS 9, 1969	68. MAGIC CARPET RIDE	STEPPENWOLF	ABC-DUNHILL, 1968
19. SUNDOWN	GORDON LIGHTFOOT	REPRISE, 1974	69. MONEY CITY MANIACS	SLOAN	MURDERRECORDS, 1998
20. UNDERWHELMED	SLOAN	MURDERRECORDS, 1992	70. MY HEART WILL GO ON	CÉLINE DION	COLUMBIA, 1997
21. UP ON CRIPPLE CREEK/THE NIGHT THEY DROVE OLD DIXIE DOWN	THE BAND	CAPITOL, 1969	71. CRABBUCKIT	K-OS	ASTRALWERKS, 2004
22. LET YOUR BACKBONE SLIDE	MAESTRO FRESHWES	ATTIC, 1989	72. THIS BEAT GOES ON/ SWITCHIN' TO GLIDE	THE KINGS	ELEKTRA, 1980
23. TIRED OF WAKING UP TIRED	THE DIODES	CBS, 1978	73. OLD MAN/THE NEEDLE AND THE DAMAGE DONE	NEIL YOUNG	REPRISE, 1972
24. THE SPIRIT OF RADIO	RUSH	MERCURY, 1980	74. 1990	JEAN LÉLOUP	AUDIOGRAM, 1991
25. OH WHAT A FEELING	CROWBAR	DAFFODIL, 1971	75. EYES OF A STRANGER	PAYOLA\$	A&M, 1983
26. HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL	ROUGH TRADE	TRUE NORTH, 1981	76. HASN'T HIT ME YET	BLUE RODEO	WARNER, 1993
27. ECHO BEACH	MARTHA AND THE MUFFINS	DINOISC, 1979	77. YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET	BACHMAN-TURNER OVERDRIVE	MERCURY, 1974
28. SWEET CITY WOMAN	THE STAMPEDERS	MWC, 1971	78. WONDERING WHERE THE LIONS ARE	BRUCE COCKBURN	TRUE NORTH, 1979
29. WAKE UP	ARCADE FIRE	MERGE, 2004	79. YOU COULD HAVE BEEN A LADY	APRIL WINE	AQUARIUS, 1972
30. IF I HAD \$1000000	BARENAKED LADIES	INDEPENDENT, 1991	80. SOMETHING ON MY MIND/ LET'S SHAKE	TEENAGE HEAD	ATTIC, 1980
31. LINDBERG	ROBERT CHARLEBOIS AVEC LOUISE FORESTIER	GAMMA, 1968	81. HELP ME	JONI MITCHELL	ASYLUM, 1974
32. I'M AN ADULT NOW	THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS	TPOH, 1986	82. WE'RE HERE FOR A GOOD TIME (NOT A LONG TIME)	TROOPER	MCA, 1977
33. NOTHIN'	THE UGLY DUCKLINGS	YORKTOWN, 1966	83. SUNNY DAYS	LIGHTHOUSE	GRT, 1972
34. COAX ME	SLOAN	GEFFEN, 1994	84. LE PETIT ROI	JEAN-PIERRE FERLAND	BARCLAY, 1970
35. CLOSER TO THE HEART	RUSH	ANTHEM, 1977	85. CUTS LIKE A KNIFE	BRYAN ADAMS	A&M, 1983
36. PICTURE MY FACE	TEENAGE HEAD	IGM, 1978	86. THE HOCKEY SONG	STOMPIN' TOM CONNORS	BOOT, 1972
37. SHAKIN' ALL OVER	THE GUESS WHO	QUALITY, 1965	87. WHEAT KINGS	THE TRAGICALLY HIP	MCA, 1992
38. SIGNS	FIVE MAN ELECTRICAL BAND	LIONEL, 1971	88. MON RAYS	GILLES VIGNEAULT	COLUMBIA, 1965
39. LOST TOGETHER	BLUE RODEO	WARNER, 1992	89. HOME FOR A REST	SPIRIT OF THE WEST	WARNER, 1990
40. SONNY'S DREAM	RON HYNES	GRAND EAST, 1981	90. LETTER FROM AN OCCUPANT	THE NEW PORNOGRAPHERS	MINT, 2000
41. THE SAFETY DANCE	MEN WITHOUT HATS	STATIK, 1982	91. NO TIME	THE GUESS WHO	RCA, 1969
42. CLAIRE	RHEDSTATICS	SIRE, 1994	92. AS THE YEARS GO BY	MASHMAKHAN	COLUMBIA, 1970
43. ONE FINE MORNING	LIGHTHOUSE	GRT, 1970	93. HEY HEY, MY MY (INTO THE BLACK) MY MY, HEY HEY (OUT OF THE BLUE)	NEIL YOUNG	REPRISE, 1979
44. (MAKE ME DO) ANYTHING YOU WANT	A FOOT IN COLDWATER	DAFFODIL, 1972	94. DIANA	PAUL ANKA	SPARTAN, 1957
45. SUNGLASSES AT NIGHT	COREY HART	AQUARIUS, 1983	95. THE MAKER	DANIEL LANDIS	ORAL, 1989
46. WORKING FOR THE WEEKEND	LOVERBOY	CBS, 1981	96. NOVA HEART	SPOONS	READY, 1982
47. RAISE A LITTLE HELL	TROOPER	MCA, 1978	97. LA COMPLAINTÉ DU PHOQUE EN ALASKA	BEAU DOMMAGE	CAPITOL, 1974
48. RISE UP	PARACHUTE CLUB	CURRENT/RCA, 1983	98. SECRET HEART	RON SEXSMITH	INTERSCOPE, 1995
49. BLACK VELVET	ALANNAH MYLES	ATLANTIC, 1989	99. RUN TO YOU	BRYAN ADAMS	A&M, 1984
50. SEASONS IN THE SUN	TERRY JACKS	GOLDFISH, 1974	100. WEIGHTY GHOST	WINTERSLEEP	LABWORK, 2007