

Canadian Folk Music

[The Log Driver's Waltz](#)

Wade Hemsworth's The Log Driver's Waltz has been a long time Canadian favourite throughout generations. The song illustrates the practice of log driving where men on logs ran and "birled" from one log to another in an effort to guide their timber to a saw mill downstream.

Hemsworth's inspiration for the song was drawn from the similar movements he observed between log driving and dancing. In 1979, the National Film Board of Canada produced Canadian Vignettes: a series of five-minute videos to be included between children's programs. The Log Driver's Waltz still remains the most popular vignette where it's sometimes played on CBC and other Canadian networks between shows.

[Farewell to Nova Scotia](#)

A song which celebrates the East Coast is the traditional tune Farewell to Nova Scotia. This song has been sung by Nova Scotia natives since the beginning of the First World War. Although the author remains unknown, it is suspected that the British war poem "The Soldier's Adieu", which first appeared in a Glasgow newspaper in 1808, was the inspiration behind the song as many lines from the poem are used in the lyrics.

[The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald](#)

In more recent history, Gordon Lightfoot's The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald was a number one hit back in 1975 that commemorated the sinking of the bulk carrier on Lake Superior during a fierce gale in the same year. Lightfoot struggled to put together words for the song as he wanted to be sure the lyrics accurately depicted the wreckage, but a friend told him to just tell a story. As mentioned in the song, the Mariners' Church of Detroit rings their bells 29 times every year to honor each life that was lost in the wreck.