

Paul Bragg Br.
Aug 25/89 70

Fiddler Al Cherny dies

One of Canada's favorite fiddlers, Mississauga resident Al Cherny, 57, died Wednesday of lung cancer.

"Flying Fingers" Cherny was the elder statesman of the *Tommy Hunter Show* for almost 25 years. He is to be inducted into the Country Hall of Fame in Kitchener later this month.

Tommy Hunter says Cherny is remembered for helping "scared kids" who performed on the popular CBC-TV show relax, and he would break the ice when the show's musicians were under deadline pressure.

The longtime friend and country music legend says Cherny tackled every piece of music with enthusiasm, as though he was playing it for the first time, and few people knew how talented he was.

In 1960 and 1961, Cherny, who changed his name from Alexander Peter Chernywech, was the first Canadian to win both the old-time and novelty classes at the International Fiddle Championships.

The Credit Woodlands resident made his television debut on CBC-TV's *Country Hoedown* as a second fiddle, playing with Tommy Hunter and Gordie Tapp. When Hunter got his own show, Cherny followed.

Cherny died at Mississauga Hospital, and is survived by his wife, Marion, and son, Peter. Funeral services will be held at Cooksville United Church on Monday at 10:30 a.m.



AL CHERNY

PEEL B10G BK.

AUG 25-89 H.N.

CHERNY, AL