

Murray S. Ritchie

Biography

Developmental Years 1960 - 1976

Murray Ritchie was born in Edmonton Alberta in 1960 and relocated to Selkirk Manitoba just weeks old so his newly single mother and older brother could be closer to family and familiar community support.

Growing up in the traditional territories of the of the Anishinabe (Ojibwe), Ininew (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene, and Dakota, and Birthplace of the Métis Nation. Murray was mostly raised by his grandfather, a second generation Canadian of Irish decent and respected business man, who taught him to respect elders, his ancestors and those who came before him and to treat all people as he would like to be treated.

He enjoyed the outdoors and spent most of his time exploring the banks of the Red River and the shores of Lake Winnipeg. Growing up in a small town introduced him to a variety of cultures and traditions practiced by the parents of school friends. From Ukrainian dancing to German polka, Métis fiddling to Scottish pipe bands, Cree hoop dance to Ojibwe drumming, Murray quickly developed a passion for all things musical.

Drumming became his greatest passion, and his formal training began by learning Scottish rudiments in a Highland Band which quickly turned to private lessons and shifting from Scottish drumming to the local Sea Cadet marching band. In 1971, age 11 grade 6, Murray met a young guitar player who had been practicing to his older brother's record collection and after recruiting another classmate to sing, play tambourine and dance, The Hitchhikers were formed and played their first show, one song (Proud Mary: CCR) at the school Christmas concert.

It was this pivotal moment that drew Murray's attention away from school and toward all things Rock n' Roll, good and bad.