



*Rick Norcross, center, fiddle player Doug Reid, left, and Taryn Noelle, right, entertain Sunday at the former elementary school in East Hardwick, during Norcross' Homecoming Concert celebrating his 45th anniversary tour of Vermont. Norcross and Rick and the Ramblers, his seven piece Western Swing Band, played the benefit to raise money for the Hardwick Town House "Front Steps Fund" and the Hardwick Historical Society. They raised \$1,121. Norcross graduated from Hardwick Academy in 1963.*

*(photo by Vanessa Fournier)*

## Norcross Rambles Back Home

### REVIEW

by Dawn Gustafson

**HARDWICK** — Around 150 people turned out Sunday afternoon at the former East Hardwick Elementary School to hear the music of the western swing band Rick & The Ramblers with the vocal group The Blue Gardenias.

Former East Hardwick resident Rick Norcross and his seven-piece band performed the concert to raise money for the "Front Steps Fund" of the Hardwick Town House and the Hardwick Historical Society. Members of the Historical Society were there selling calendars, hats and T-shirts and the East Hardwick Grange sold refreshments to raise money for their organization.

Despite a bad cold, Norcross couldn't contain his enthusiasm and excitement at being back in his home town. He did much reminiscing about his childhood and was excited to be able to play for friends and family members in attendance. His sense of humor came through loud and clear with his banter with the audience as well as his music. He made a valiant effort to sing songs off his new CD "I Rode The

Ti," despite his voice cutting out due to the cold; after singing a couple of songs, he turned the concert over to his band and the women's vocal group The Blue Gardenias, who also sing on the CD. The trio was a joy to hear with their beautiful sound.

After receiving some Reiki on his throat Norcross came back to sing more songs and there was a definite improvement to his voice. But he didn't overdue it letting The Blue Gardenias showcase their vocal talent.

With the sun beating down, this was a perfect afternoon for the concert. After an hour and a half the band took a break, the lake beckoned and my husband and I left, but I was told the Ramblers came back to play another short set and received a standing ovation from the appreciative crowd.

A little over \$1,100 was raised, with many people giving donations over and above the \$5 charge for the concert. Norcross also had his new CD available for purchase with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the cause. If you missed this East Hardwick show, watch for other concerts as Norcross is celebrating his 45th year in the music business with a 10 concert "I Rode The Ti" Tour of Vermont coinciding with the release of the CD.