

Acton Rock Fest

James rocks with the best

In this third article in a series about the performers booked for the Acton Rock Fest Aug. 4 in Prospect Park, reporter Mark Holmes talks with Toronto band leader Paul James, who's shared stages with some of pop music's brightest lights.

by MARK HOLMES

Paul James is a man who takes his music seriously.

Fighting against the trends toward "commercialized" music over the past few years, the Toronto musician has hung onto his ideals to become one of the hottest rockabilly sensations in Canada with the potential for international stardom not far away.

James, who attended a recent luncheon at the Acton Legion for stars of the upcoming Rock Fest in Prospect Park Aug. 4, has just released his first album entitled "Almost Crazy" and if the record is any indication of things to come, the sky's the limit for the Paul James Band.

The music, clean and crisp with deep roots in ageless blues and the power of early rock and roll, is a refreshing change from the computerized, synthesized rock of today. "Chuck Berry will have to take the credit as being the biggest influence on my music," said James, "and we try to stay away from a lot of the electronic gadgetry that has been introduced to the music industry."

GET INVOLVED

The softspoken manner of the musician belies his potential to captivate an audience with performances that rock such clubs as the El Mocambo, Brunswick and Albert's Hall.

He believes in bringing his listeners into

his music and getting them involved in the show.

"Success is not measured by the amount of money you make, it's measured by the quality of your music," remarked James. "If I can look in the mirror after the show and honestly say I gave the audience what they came for then my job has been accomplished."

James was born and raised in downtown Toronto and, at age 11, the music bug bit him.

Like many musicians, he started in a basement and gradually worked his way up to playing regularly in a few bars along the Yonge St. strip.

"When I first started playing the bars, I was underage, so every time the cops walked into a bar I was playing in, I went out the back door."

The Bermuda Tavern on Yonge was James' first steady gig. He played for \$130 a week.

Fortunately for James, the Bermuda was close to numerous bars, like the Colonial, where he'd watch blues greats like Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker.

OWN LABEL

"After listening to people like that I just had to go back to my own gig and try out some of the same stuff I'd just heard," explained James.

James' early experience with record companies turned out to be rather bad. As a result he, unlike many of his counterparts, created his own label and produced his own music.

While in the Colonial one day, James met Lightnin' Hopkins, another blues great, who needed a back-up band.

James got the gig and in time was introduced to some of the top blues entertainers like Sunnyland Slim, Ramblin' Jack Elliot

(Continued on page A6)

Oriena gets Liberal nomination

By JANE MULLER

Crossing the initial hurdle on the road to Ottawa has left Halton Liberal Party candidate Oriena Currie even more confident.

Prior to last Tuesday's nomination meeting, the Campbellville businesswoman would have been happier without Walter Elliot's competition. After her win, however, she was glad for the challenge.

"The last hurdle was crossed with a smaller army and it was a little lonely. This time there is a big army," Mrs. Currie said in a recent interview.

Although Halton Liberal Association riding members did not all vote her way Tuesday, Mrs. Currie explained they have "rallied with the victor".

"I've never worked with people in those numbers," she said. The Liberal candidate has not met her most formidable contender, Conservative MP Otto Jelinek who won by a comfortable margin

Ballinafad
Lloyd Buckrell assisted the guest preacher for the church service on Sunday. He was Mr. Tyrrell, layman for the Anglican Church in Georgetown.

The regular minister, Rev. Bandy will be back to occupy the pulpit next Sunday. We hope there will be many out to welcome him.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Shortill and family have been visiting his parents and other relatives in the community. They returned to their home in Ottawa on Saturday.

We are sorry that Linda O'Connor and daughters have moved from our vicinity to Milton. We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Van Der Meer and children who are now occupying the O'Connor home.

in 1980. She is looking forward to meeting the local MP at the numerous all-candidates meetings planned in the region.

She admits as a newcomer she is "not going to be well-versed on all the issues." Her education will be ongoing through the campaign and will cover both sides of the issues and result in her own conclusions and problem-solving methods, says the candidate.

With the nomination meeting over, Mrs. Currie is ready to mount the campaign trail. She has put her business interests aside for the

weeks leading to the Sept. 4 election and is ready to donate her waking hours to the task of wooing voters.

Meeting the people face-to-face on their own doorsteps will draw questions and concerns which may not surface at public forums, says Mrs. Currie. Such confrontations will give the candidate an opportunity to explain the differences between federal parties as well as the responsibilities of various levels of government.

She referred to the bright national picture of the Liberals, saying, "People see it as the party of change."

Liberals are not rigid in their thoughts, they've changed with the times."

If Mrs. Currie were to represent Halton in parliament, she says she would like to make a few changes of her own. One would be on the home front. The Liberal hopeful would "make better use of the constituency office."

She sees a local office as a centre for information gathering and sharing. This is also a role Ottawa could play a stronger part in, says Mrs. Currie, who feels a greater flow of information from government to industry would help solve unemployment.

Canada's business community could benefit from more knowledge of imports. She suggests Canadian industries could fill gaps left in certain areas if they were aware of them.

"Now we can't see the demand or look at international trends. We might not be encouraging the free enterprise system enough," she said.

The development of innovation centres would help those with new product ideas to develop and protect them and provide guidance, she says.

Making government knowledge public wouldn't require "fantastic" amounts of money,

she contends.

The mother of three children in their twenties said a summer campaign will attract more supporters especially young Liberals. Being a newcomer to politics, Mrs. Currie does not feel at a disadvantage as "no one is born a politician".

Incumbent Mr. Jelinek has held the local seat since 1978 and was MP for a Toronto riding since 1972. His Liberal challenger says that record or his position in the last election won't bother her.

She will meet fellow contenders locally at an all-candidates meeting Thurs. Aug. 23.



Toronto rocker Paul James burned up the stage at Albert's Hall last Saturday night to the delight of a capacity crowd. On the eve of his much-anticipated performance at the Acton Rock Fest this weekend, James is approaching a peak in his current popularity but observers are unanimous that he's destined for even greater things. The Paul James band will be warming up the Prospect Park crowd for Long John Baldry, Ronnie Hawkins and Bo Diddley. Photo by Pete Post

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