



JOHN ELLIS

"Yahoo" signed to RCA

Hillsburgh native John Ellis, whose musical accomplishments in an Oakville recording studio provided the subject for a Herald feature earlier this year, has recently signed a one year contract with RCA records and already has a promising single climbing national programming charts.

John's second single release, Captain Courageous, is marked with a "bullet" on Canada's RPM chart, which means that sales and airplay are increasing all the time. The song, a well-produced pop-folk tune reminiscent of Jimmy Buffet's finest moment, is now being aired on Toronto's CFGM CHFI and CFRB stations as well as Oakville's CHWO, Missauga's CJMR and Guelph's CJOY.

John sets off next week on a month-long promotional tour of eastern Canada, where he will appear on regionally-broadcast CBC radio and television programs before returning to his favorite studio, Sound Path Productions in Oakville.

LOCAL FANS

John will be remembered by local music fans as a member of the Hillsburgh-based trio the Orton Yahoos, a folk, rock and bluegrass combo which performed several times at Georgetown's Station House hotel and played with the Good Brothers and Lenny Solomon at Norval's Way-Jay Club.

The Yahoos won the affection of their Hillsburgh neighbors by contributing all profits from their first single, Hillbilly from Hillsburgh, to the restoration of the community's arena.

It was on Sound Path's own label that John released his first solo single, You Are, a tune which did moderately well on MOR radio playlists and served as his "calling card" for record industry officials around North America.

The single was successful enough, in fact, to catch the eyes and ears of RCA directors, who after lengthy negotiations and dozens of phone calls, offered John a three-year contract. He held out for a one-year deal, however, to avoid getting tied down with contractual requirements.

After four weeks on the radio, Captain Courageous, with its relaxing melody, romantic lyrics and Caribbean flavor, has assured RCA officials that they made the right decision about John.

OLD VIK

RCA has, in fact, revived its old Vik label for John's style of music, and major radio stations across Canada are giving the single a spin largely on the basis of its well-known backer. Once the stations and their listeners have heard the song, though, they don't stop playing it. The initial playing has a snowball effect, as more and more stations pull the single from among the dozens of new entries submitted, the vast majority of which never receive airtime.

John expects to be back in the Oakville studio with his co-writer and producer Peter Arthur in August to finalize work on several more single releases and to continue ongoing efforts on his first solo album, which should be out before winter.

And, within six months, royalty checks will begin arriving in the mail from across Canada to signal John's entry into the high-profit world of professional musicians.

Fatality under investigation

A three-car accident on Highway 25 Wednesday evening which took the life of a Milton man is under investigation by Milton OPP.

Samuel Fucile, 63, of 256 Main St. Milton, was killed in the collision.

A car driven north on the highway by William Stewart, 38, of 191 Kingham Rd., Acton veered into the southbound lane striking the left rear fender of a car driven by Lindsay Leslie, of Burlington. The car continued, striking the Fucile vehicle, which was driven by Thomas Strauss of 784 Applewood Cres., Milton.

Mr. Fucile's wife, Audrey, 55 was taken to Milton Hospital and later transferred to Hamilton General Hospital where she remains in critical condition.

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