

Routes of Country concert comes to Acton on Saturday

By **Melanie Hennessey**
Special to The IFP

Nothing can take one back in time like hearing a familiar song they haven't listened to in ages.

With that in mind, the Muir Family Band is hoping to take local residents on a nostalgic journey through the history of country music at its upcoming show in Halton Hills.

The Routes of Country concert, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 21 at Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton, will showcase a mix of songs and stories from country's golden era.

"I call it a theatre show, but it's not a play," said drummer Brandon Muir. "It's music and it's narrative, almost like a group of musicians sitting in a living room talking. I want people to walk away knowing something about the song or the artist."

The band's musical roots extend decades back to when Brandon's



The Muir Family Band is bringing its classic country tunes to Acton this weekend. From left to right are guitar player and vocalist Aaron Muir, fiddler Mark Parrish, vocalist Donna Muir, drummer Brandon Muir and bass player Paul Holmes (who will be absent from the Acton show).

Submitted photo

mother, Donna, sang in her brother's band at Acton Legion dances. After giving birth to musically-inclined children, Donna said there was always music in their house-

hold.

"I used to haul bowls out of kitchen cupboards and use knitting needles to play the drums," said Brandon.

The family's favourite type of music is classic country, Donna said, which they started playing at jamborees and churches two decades ago.

So what can one expect if they attend a Muir Family Band show?

"We do songs that you'll remember, but not the typical popular ones that were on the radio," said Brandon. "I always loved the album cuts."

The evening will include covers of music from artists like Patsy Cline, Randy Travis, Merle Haggard, George Jones and Dwight Yoakam.

While the band carries the Muir family name, with Brandon on drums, Donna on vocals and another of her sons, Aaron, on guitar and vocals, the group also consists of other members who are fellow music enthusiasts - fiddler Mark Parrish and bass player Paul Holmes. At the upcoming Acton concert the band will also be joined by bass player and singer Gary Hea-

slip, Fred Lewis on the lead guitar and Dale Rivard on the steel guitar (Holmes is unable to make it that evening).

The show will start at 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 and refreshments will be served. Tickets cost \$20 per person and are available by calling 519-853-2360, 519-853-0318 or 519-856-9981. Knox Presbyterian Church is located at 44 Main St. N., Acton and is a wheelchair accessible facility.

GBC presents

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