

LIKE A ROCK, ROB'S SILVERADO WILL NEVER BE GONE

SEGER CLASSIC BRINGS BACK GREAT MEMORIES, WRITES TED BROWN



TED BROWN
Column

I think most of us have some sort of a "bucket list."

And as we age, the contents tend to change and become fine-tuned, to address where we are in our life. Most items on my bucket list revolve around music and concerts.

I'm not a fanatic "concert-goer," but I have seen a few performers live on stage before they were gone forever.

Over the years I've taken in concerts at Maple Leaf Gardens, Air Canada Centre, Roy Thomson Hall and my all-time favourite, Massey Hall, which is currently undergoing renovations.

And my bucket list of performers has included British legends like Paul McCartney, The Who, The Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton.

North American groups I've caught up with include The Eagles, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, as well as solo performers like James Taylor, Carole King and Arlo Guthrie - some of them numerous times.

But there's one artist that's seemed a bit elusive and I've always found virtually impossible to see.

It's Bob Seger and The Silver Bullet Band.

I've played Seger's music for decades, mostly while out on the road. His material always gives me a certain sense of free-spirited abandon as his raw rock 'n' roll sound washes over me.

Having Seger on my bucket list created one problem. He rarely toured north of the 49th parallel. He's a Detroit-born boy and has traditionally played pretty close to home.

Earlier in the year, my daughters-in-law attended Seger's Roll Me Away tour concert in Buffalo.

I tell ya, I was both envious and annoyed at the same time. Not only did I miss the concert, it was his "final" concert tour. I was close to permanently removing Seger from my list.

But as fate would have it, I heard an ad on the radio promoting Seger tickets. He had added four more performances to his tour. One was at the Scotiabank Arena in Toronto. I grabbed a pair of tickets; we were in.

Oct. 26, The Sidekick and I excitedly checked off another item from my bucket list. When Seger took to the stage, he treated the crowd to a great sampling of his early work, songs that captivated me decades ago.

Oldie goldies like Mainstreet, Old Time Rock 'n' Roll, and the raunchy Fire Down Below set the stage for the balance of the concert.

One of the more poi-

gnant moments was when Seger performed Bob Dylan's Forever Young, as a tribute to his longtime friend, Glenn Frey of The Eagles, who died in 2016.

I really enjoyed the night, as I relived the old Seger songs, like Night Moves, and Against the Wind.

But there's one song that surpasses all other Bob Seger songs. And every time I hear it I think of my eldest nephew, Rob. Years ago, Rob owned a Chevy Silverado 4x4 pickup - a gorgeous, big, black truck. And at that time General Motors was using Seger's song Like a Rock in the truck commercials.

Like most young guys, Rob had a name for his Silverado. He affectionately referred to it as "The Rock" in honour of the song. Every time I hear that song, I'm reminded that Rob's Silverado will never be gone.

Like a Rock features guitarist Rob McNelley, who plays THE best slide guitar solo in the history of rock 'n' roll. And coupled with Seger's signature raspy voice, that song puts chills up my back.

We weren't disappointed; the performance was epic.

As we boarded the GO train home, the songs reverberated in my ears. The lyrics reminded me of my youth as I checked another item off my bucket list.

Like a rock, I was strong as I could be, Like a rock, nothin' ever got to me, Like a rock, I was something to see. Like a rock

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THE WAY WE WERE



EHS photo

A member of the Georgetown Fire Department places a wreath at the foot of the town's cenotaph during the Remembrance Day service held on Sunday, Nov. 8, 1964, while a Lorne Scot vigil guard stands watch. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of Halton Hills (Esquering township).

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