

# Hometown favourites win Battle of the Bands

## LTD walks away champions at Mohawk Inn

By DONNA DANIELLI

The Mohawk Inn and Conference Centre rocked the house on Saturday, August 14 as it played host to the Battle of the Bands. This fundraising event in support of the Ride for Sight program for the Foundation Fighting Blindness saw a variety of bands compete for a spot on next year's stage at the popular Ride For Sight concert in Collingwood. Judging the event were some of the top names in the music industry.

"I like different sorts of music, so it's easy for me to judge the merits of each band," explained TV and record producer Michael DaVinci of the evening's entertainment which varied from classic rock and roll to blues to punk. He also pointed out the importance of events such as the Battle of the Bands in allowing the industry to break away from formulaic patterns. "Now more than ever, there's a huge underground industry. Record companies are starting to seek independent producers who have their ear to the ground."

Hometown favourites, LTD walked away the champion of the Battle of the Bands. Their nine song set only included two cover tunes, with the rest of the set devoted to their own original music. The enthusiastic crowd cheered and whistled as bandmates Steven Demetrious, Alex Frank, Tim Smith, Ryan Mitchell and Jonathan Volpe belted out their tunes. Roars of approval came from the audience during LTD's trademark hit "Lightening Storm" as guitarist Alex Frank coaxed an incredible solo performance from his guitar using a violin bow. Equally popular with the crowd was "The Messenger"

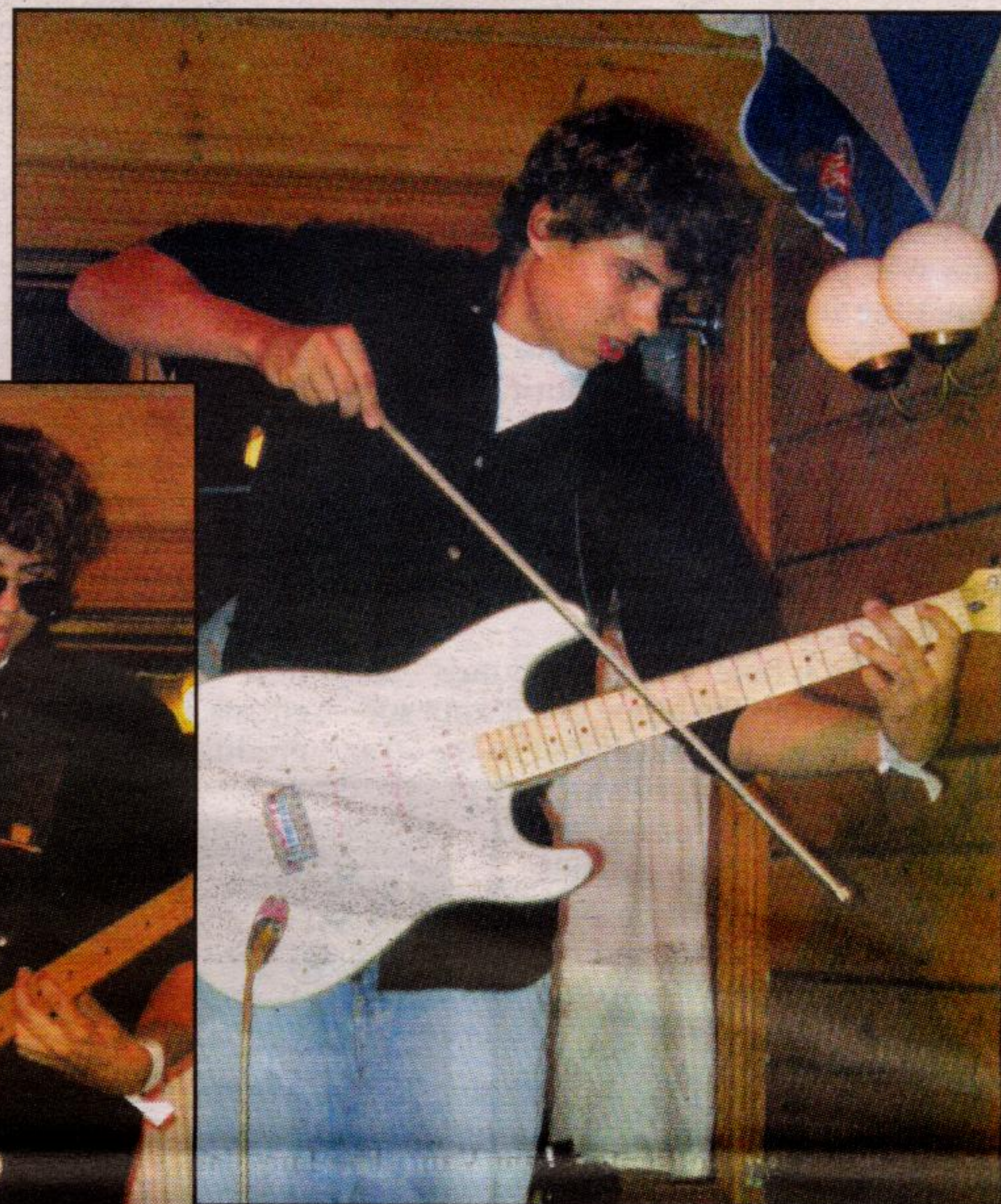
which saw drummer Ryan Mitchell abandon his drum set for an inspired solo using only his drumsticks and a wooden stool and Tim Smith's guitar solo during "Collision". It was LTD's innovative style and high energy performance that set them apart as the crowd favourite early in the evening.

"I think you guys have potential," Michael DaVinci told the group after their performance. "Your energy is really good. You need to have more experience and that will come in time." In an interview after the concert, the 17-year veteran of the music industry expressed his belief that LTD is a band that will go far, and commented that he looks forward to hearing them

again in a few years, when their music and lyrics reflect more life experience. "They are only 17 and 18 right now, but they have tremendous potential," he said. "I just want them to define a little more what it is that I'm going to be enjoying."

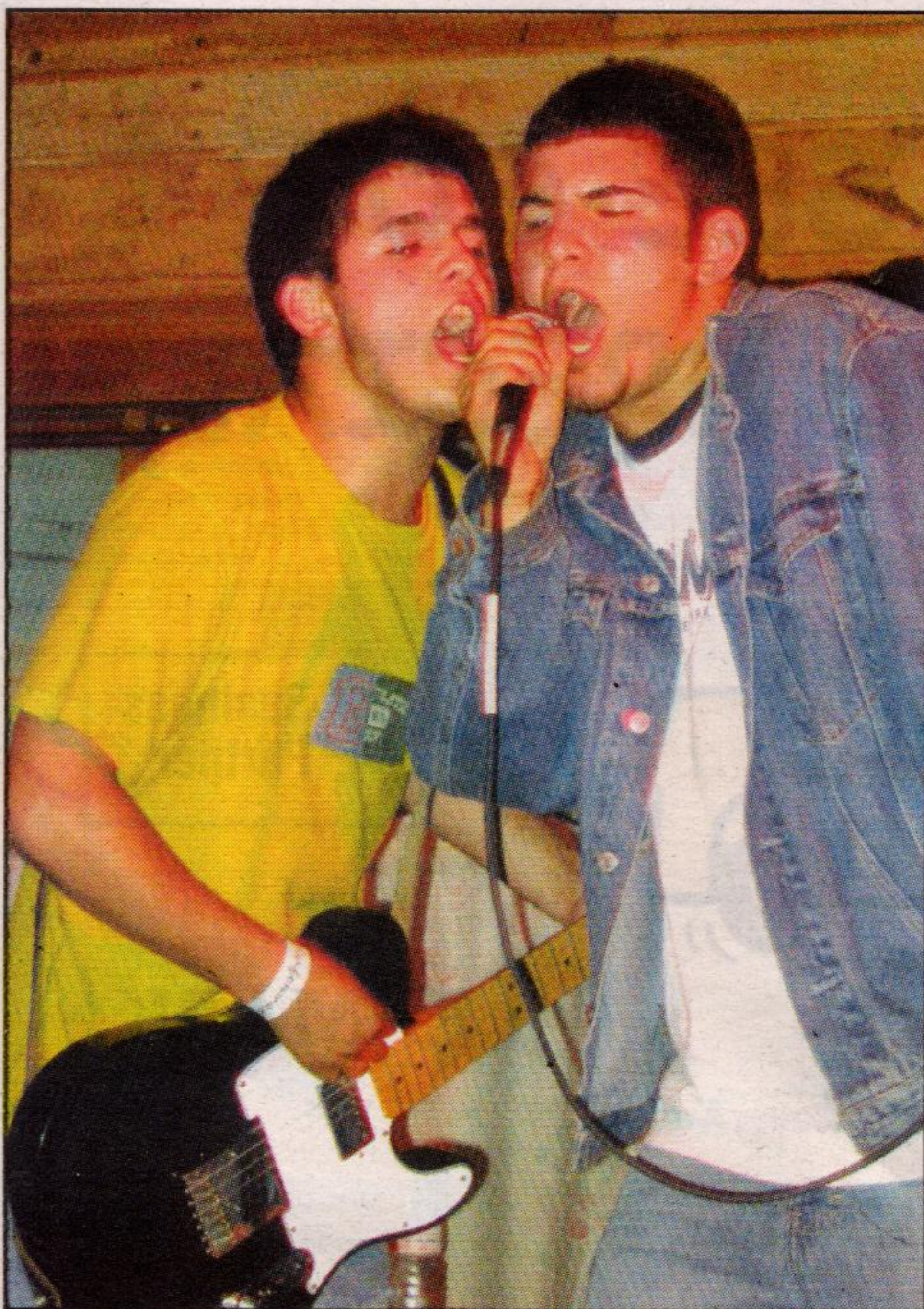


Members of local rock band LTD, Steven Demetrious and Alex Frank rock the house as LTD reigns victorious at a recent Battle of the Bands competition.



Local musician and member of rock band LTD Alex Frank draws enthusiastic cheers from the crowd as he performs a guitar solo using a violin bow during the band's original song "Lightening Storm".

PHOTOS BY DONNA DANIELLI



LTD bandmates Jonathan Volpe and Steven Demetrious rock the house at Mohawk Inn on Saturday, August 14 as they triumph in the Battle of the Bands. The event, a fundraiser for Ride For Sight, saw LTD rise to victory over the other contestants, winning them a spot onstage at next June's major Ride for Sight Event in Collingwood.



Doug Barr and the Big Boy Band big hit at Burlington Children's Festival

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Burlington's Spencer Smith Park was the setting on August 9 for the 13th Annual Burlington Children's Festival. Pictured here is Doug Barr and the Big Boy Band playing to enthusiastic audiences of die hard fans and their parents.