

It's only rock and roll, but I like it

By ANN KORNUA

Welcome to Hockey Town," Ty MacKenzie says, waving a hand at the window. "I ask you, what are you supposed to do in Milton if you don't play hockey and you're a kid?"

In Milton, there are no movie theatres, no youth centers, not even an arcade to waste an hour or two in, just coffee shops and hockey arenas. With all this spare time and no place to go, young people are often seen as rebellious mischief makers but what you hear from them is that they just have nothing to do.

This is not the case for a group of friends. On April 15 at Bishop Redding High School, they plan to show just what a few local kids can do with their own rock show.

An idea spearheaded by Anthony Panecasio along with the Milton Jay Cees Junior Achievement, this show will not only be a fun social evening but an entrepreneurial lesson in marketing, networking, and balancing net income. Anthony said that the Milton Jaycees gave them a challenge to first organise an evening like this and then find funding for it. Working through JA, Anthony helped the group to focus on the business of rock show production. "I have been involved in going to shows for a while now and I know many of the bands. I got in by calling the bands, doing the promotions for it. The rest of the JA came together to help plan sponsorship, it is a different thing for them; they have never really done

something like this before."

Anthony went out to find support by asking local business for donations for prize raffles. He also networked with a local performer Ty MacKenzie to find talent for the evening. "One night we were having problems getting sponsors so we decided to go along Main Street to the local business and ask if they could put the flyer for the show in the window or if they could donate something for the raffle. We had to do a lot of follow ups with the businesses; Paul's Demographics was really excited about what we were doing and helped us out a lot." Anthony said.

Ty MacKenzie and band mate Kevin Freer are the hometown heroes in their band Skillshine Dubs. For over a year, they have developed a cool raga sound group featuring melodic vocals over heavy rhythms. They are helping Anthony and the Jay Cees by performing their music alongside such Burlington acts as Green Division, Baked Fresh Daily, and The Turn It Ups.

Ty thinks all it will take is a little motivation to get other local acts to get into the scene. "I remember going to shows when I was younger and I want to have that again. It was fun. The more shows I get to play in, the more my friends see me and say to themselves, you know, if I put four or five months into a band and I can do it too."

Anthony is doing this in hopes that people

will see that there is more to a weekday night than just being bored or going to house parties. Ty wants to see more people with talent to

come out and perform alongside them. Milton may not have a movie theatre yet, but the music scene is certainly not dead.



PHOTO BY ANN KORNUA

Helping to promote the show at Bishop Redding is (from left) Kevin Freer and Ty MacKenzie from Milton's own Skill Shine Dubs holding their lucky rabbit Kang, and promoter Anthony Panecasio.

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