

Arts & Entertainment

LTD getting their fair share of local gigs

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**

The Champion

They're just five guys who love performing. Do they dream of making it big? Of course. Are they hoping to secure a record contract? Yup.

But the band members of LTD — LifeTimeDrive — are well aware that those things don't come easy. What's required is motivation, hard work and, yes, a lot of optimism.

So as they work toward their goals, the five 18-year-olds are trying to keep a balanced perspective, having fun performing around Halton while learning the business side of the music industry and building up their bank of original songs.

They recently performed at Milton's Canada Day festivities and at Arts Milton's recent Festival of the Arts. In the months to come, LTD will be at the Acton Leathertown Festival, the

Georgetown Fall Fair and, September 16, at the Milton Fall Fair.

Their style? Good old rock 'n' roll, which means they appeal to a wide demographic, from teens to baby boomers.

Vocalist Steven Demetrious said the band — and its name — came about unintentionally. It started as three Campbellville friends — Mr. Demetrious, lead guitarist Alex Frank and drummer Ryan Mitchell — jamming in their garage.

Then they decided to give songwriting a whirl.

In October 2003, they recruited two additional band members — eventually landing guitarist and vocalist Jonathan Volpe and bassist Matt Buck — and LTD was born. "All of a sudden we started to kick off, and people were liking our music," Mr. Demetrious said. "Scouts started looking at us out of nowhere."

The band began playing at various charity events and at school — anywhere they could get their name out.

It was when they needed a name for a flyer that the guys realized they didn't have one. Their eyes landed on a t-shirt being worn by Mr. Volpe, with the initials LTD. LifeTimeDrive was the name they coined from those three letters.

Their sound has arisen from classic rock influences like the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin and the Beatles.

In April, LTD recorded a three-song demo, with hopes of adding a couple more songs later this year, Mr. Demetrious said.

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"Most bands play as a side hobby. But I think we can really pursue this. There could be something there."

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Milton's own Life Time Drive (LTD) is keeping busy performing throughout Halton.



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He added there's nothing quite like performing for a crowd.

"It's a good feeling to write something people enjoy."

With a couple of band members leaving for university in September, cohesion could be a challenge, Mr. Demetrious said. But it could also open doors with the university crowd, which the band is hoping to target.

The business side of things isn't easy, he said.

"The best advice I've gotten is if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. A lot of people want to make money off you."

Mr. Frank readily agreed about their ineptitude when it comes to the financial side of things.

"We're 18 and kind of loopy as far as business goes," he said,

laughing.

The band now has 10 or 15 original tunes, mostly co-written by Mr. Demetrious and himself, Mr. Frank said. "We're not a huge success yet, but the success we have is because of our large demographic," he said, adding, "My grandmother digs us!"

As someone who can play the harmonica, violin and piano in addition to guitar, music is more than just a pastime for Mr. Frank.

"It's really a passion of mine. Whether playing in my free time or in front of a crowd, I (love) it. I can't imagine what I'd be like without music."

For more information on the band, visit www.lifetimedrives.com.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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