

ARTS

Republic excited about first headlining tour



PHOTO COURTESY OF VICTOR TAVARES

CLOSE-KNIT BUNCH: The Most Serene Republic members (from left) Andrew McArthur, Adam Nimmo, Ryan Lenssen, Emma Dutchburn, Adrian Jewett and Nick Greaves have kept busy in recent months with tours across Canada and Europe.

Halton Youth Symphony to benefit from grant

The Halton Youth Symphony is singing for joy now that the Ontario Trillium Foundation has awarded it an \$8,000 grant.

The money has already allowed the orchestra to introduce a more interactive Web site design and will soon fund software to improve financial accountability and build a database of past members and prospective donors.

Most importantly, the funds will support a series of initiatives designed to bring stakeholders together under a fresh vision and five-year strategic plan. "We're very grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for giving us this opportunity to lay a solid foundation for the next five years," said Brigitte Cormier, the orchestra's vice-president and grants chair. "This will allow us to continue providing the high level of community service that so many have come to rely on."

The Halton Youth Symphony includes two orchestras — a chamber orchestra for musicians aged nine to 14 and a full symphony orchestra for those in high school.

The group relies on donations by individuals, corporations and foundations. The contributions the symphony has received from past donors and sponsors have been essential to providing a symphonic background for young musicians in Oakville and Halton.

The symphony's season includes a concert tomorrow at Holy Trinity School in Oakville at 7 p.m. Ticket information is available at www.haltonyouthsymphony.com or by phone at (905) 616-2760.

Band begins latest Canadian swing tonight

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

You're not likely to find Willie Nelson among the CD collections of those in The Most Serene Republic.

Nevertheless, lyrics from his timeless traveling classic — 'Just Can't Wait To Get On The Road Again, The Life I Love Is Making Music With My Friends' — have become awfully relevant for members of the up-and-coming indie-pop band.

Recently returning from a swing through Europe, the six friends — four from Milton — hit the road once again yesterday to begin a whirlwind six-gigs-in-nine-days tour across Canada.

While the local musicians certainly enjoyed their three previous tours of the country, there's added reason for excitement this time around — with the Most Serene Republic now taking on 'main attraction' status for their upcoming series of gigs, which begin tonight in Thunder Bay.

"We're really looking forward to headlining a tour," said 20-year-old guitarist Nick Greaves, whose band is signed with the Arts and Crafts label and whose CD Underwater Cinematographer can be found in mainstream music stores. "Of course there's more pressure now to have a good show, but in a way there's less pressure as well since we've already gathered our fans now and we're the ones they're coming to see. It's our turn now."

And while endurance may be an attribute more commonly associated with athletes, Greaves recognizes that the band's stamina will definitely be tested for the next week-and-a-half.

"We've got to brace ourselves and remember that after doing four or five songs and being a little tired we'll still have about 10 or so to go. Yeah, it'll definitely be a challenge."

However, you won't hear The Most Serene Republic members complaining about their hectic tour schedule, which over the next several days includes some rather lengthy road trips to Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina,

Edmonton, Calgary and finally Vancouver.

"Touring Canada makes for some long rides, but we love playing and the tours have all been incredible so far," stressed Greaves, who along with his The Most Serene Republic mates has played at such Toronto hot spots as Lee's Palace.

Following its Vancouver gig, the

band will head south to Austin, Texas to perform at the popular South By South West Festival.

Also coming up for The Most Serene Republic is the debut of their second video, (Oh) God, which was shot last month and is expected to air sometime in the next few weeks.

"That'll be great to see," said Greaves.

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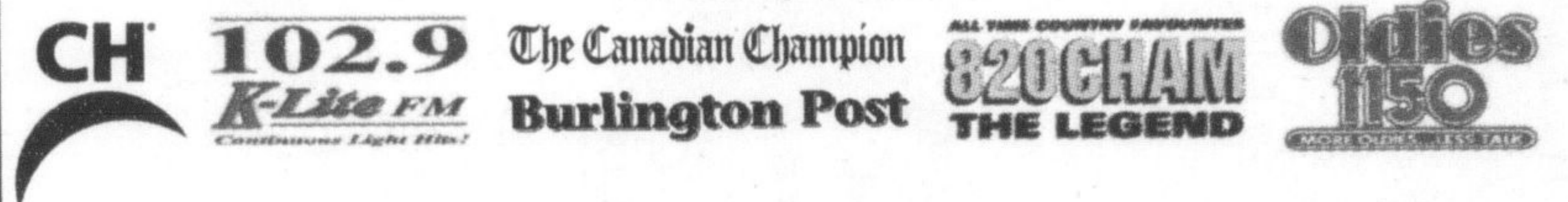
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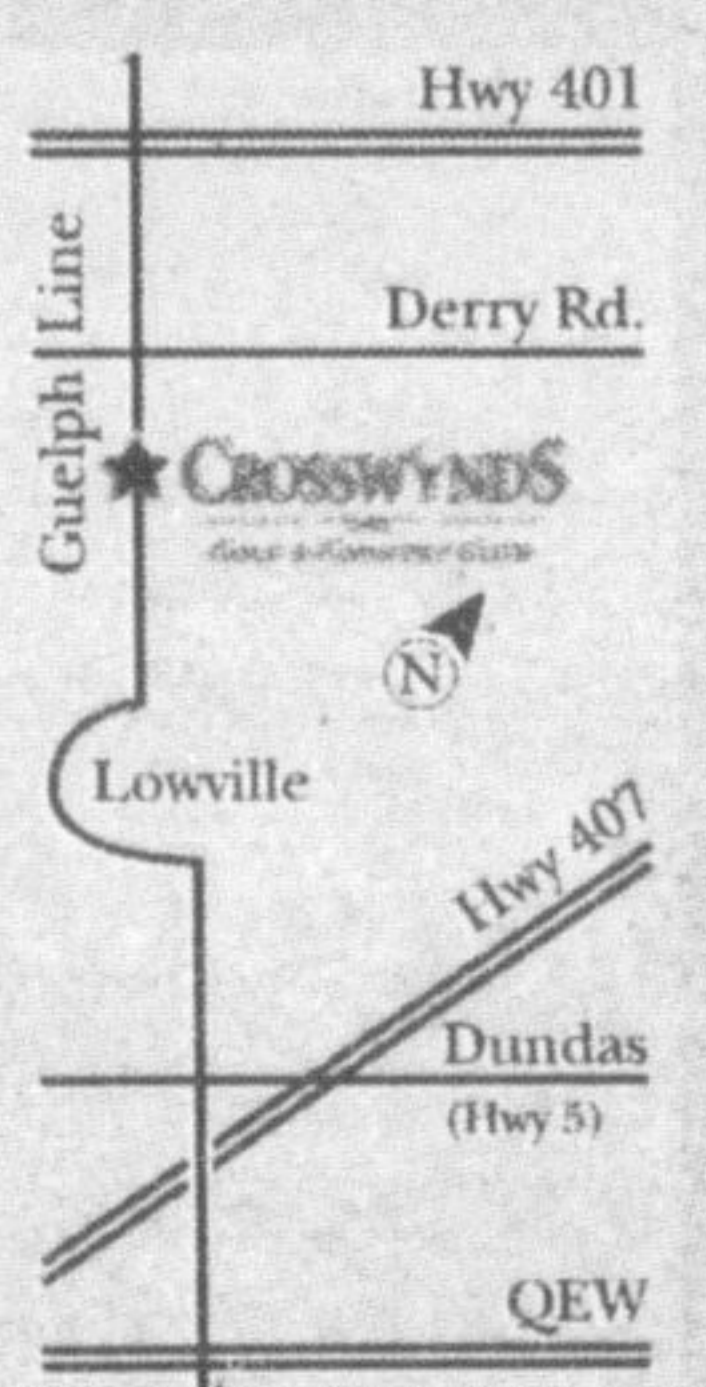
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