

# ARTS

## Canadian Idol appearance big thrill for Milton musicians

Prime time exposure  
for local trio's Ryan  
Malcolm-fronted band

By Stephanie Hounsell  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

You know it's going to be a good week when it starts with a performance on Canadian Idol watched by millions of viewers.

Just ask Shaun Noronha, James Rooke and Dave Carter, three Miltonians who hit the jackpot, appearing on the wildly popular singing show Monday night with their band, Low Level Flight — fronted by Ryan Malcolm, the first ever Canadian Idol.

One day later, the three local members were still trying to wrap their heads around just what this performance could mean for the band's continued success.

"A lot of bands would die for that amount of exposure," said Carter, the band's lead guitarist.

Added bass player Noronha: "It was thrilling. When you're a kid you say, 'I'm going to be a rock star,' but I never thought I'd be playing on national TV in front of three or four million people."

Guitarist Rooke likened the experience to winning the Super Bowl.



**IN THE SPOTLIGHT:** Members of Low Level Flight, which includes Miltonians Shaun Noronha (far left), Dave Carter (second from left) and James Rooke (second from right) strike a pose. Centre is Ryan Malcolm, lead singer and former Canadian Idol, while drummer Brandon Merenick is on the far right.

This past year has been a busy one for the five members of Low Level Flight, to say the least. About six months ago, they released their debut album Urgency, a driving pop-rock endeavour released on Malcolm's own label, I Heart Records.

Over the summer they've been busy promoting the album and playing the summer

festival circuit. Urgency's first single, 'Change For Me,' reached the number one spot on the MuchMoreMusic.com Countdown.

And their second single, 'Say,' has been released to radio just in time for a fall cross-country tour, which they'll embark on later this month.

As if that weren't enough, the band also recently shot an episode of Star! TV's 'Making It,' a new half-hour reality-based program that traces the transformation of people in the entertainment world as they struggle to achieve their dreams. Their episode will be the season opener of the series this fall.

The band is still quite new; Malcolm, Noronha and Rooke have been together about a year, while Carter and drummer Brandon Merenick came on board about six months ago.

Noronha said Low Level Flight is a pop-rock band influenced by the music of groups like Cold Play and U2. Flowing melody lines and hard driving beats are characteristic of them.

Noronha, a Milton District High School graduate, is looking forward to moving back to Milton with his wife after leaving a few years ago. He said it's a good place for a musician to be since it's close to Toronto but offers a more restful atmosphere.

"I loved growing up here," he said, adding, "I can't wait to be back in Milton."

Rooke said the group's next focus is its tour, which they'll start in a couple of weeks.

One of the challenges the band has faced since its inception is finding the right balance between being true to their own music tastes while not alienating the fans that

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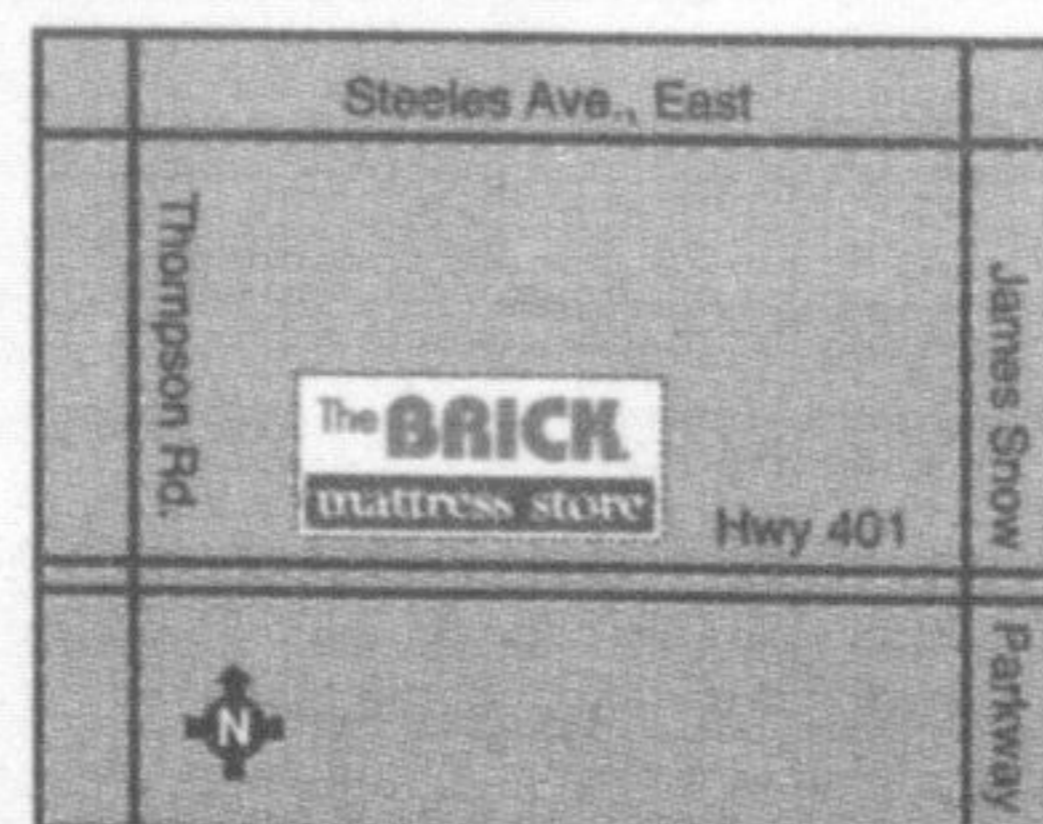
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