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But Sunday night, the now 34-year-old public servant and his wife sat complacently waiting for the show to begin. Their dress and manner wouldn't have turned an eye at an Arts Centre recital.

A young-executive type in front of them quietly sipped on a bottle of Canadian Club. A late-blooming (or long-lasting) freak beside them rolled a few joints.

The crowd wasn't too old to sit cross-legged on the arena floor, but old enough to prefer the seats.

For the Rokoshes, it was exciting but hardly cause for delirium — until the Beach Boys hit the stage.

Erased maturity

A few strains of Little Deuce Coupe effectively erased a decade of maturity and any sedateness that may have come with age and responsibility.

Ten thousand instant teenyboppers, launched back to the summer of '62, jumped to their feet, singing, clapping, stomping and generally loving every minute of the wildest nostalgia trip in town.

There were the screamers and fainers in the front row — the 13-year-olds who weren't around to scream and faint in frenzied idolatry when the Beach Boys made it first time 'round in 1961.

But for most, turning on to the Beach Boys was not idolizing the five now-bearded Californians. Nor, for that matter, was it necessarily worshipping their music.

It was a homage to youth and times past, that peculiar yet pervasive tenet that the good ol' days were the best.

As a beaming Greg Rokosh said on his way back to reality after the concert:

"It really took us back a long way."

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