



Stouffville's Bernie LaBarge brings his band Mind Over Matter to Greens Restaurant in Markham this weekend. The group specializes in 60s rock and roll—especially Beatles' favorites.

Stouffville man revives golden age of rock and roll

SUSAN GROBER

Do you miss the good old days of the rock and roll band—that golden age in the '60s that all began with The Beatles?

Well, Stouffville's own Bernie LaBarge will be bringing it all back home when his band Mind Over Matter comes to Greens Restaurant in Markham on Feb. 11, 12 and 13.

"I don't really like any of the popular music that's out right now," says LaBarge. "The only musician that has interested me recently has been Bruce Hornsby, who was like a breath of fresh air to the business. Actually, I'm a huge Jimi Hendrix fan."

Along with some of the band's original material, Mind Over Matter will play popular music from '60s groups such as The Animals, Procol Harum and the fab four, of course.

"Our covers sound just like the originals on the old records, except there aren't any pops and scratches," LaBarge, 34, says with a laugh.

LaBarge and his cohorts (bassist Gene Falbo, drummer Paul DeLong and Grant Slater on keyboard) have been around the music scene for quite some time, both on the road and in the studio.

LaBarge says the music of Mind Over Matter is influenced by the wide array of musical styles, from rock to jazz to country, that the individual band members have played over the years.

As a musician, songwriter and vocalist, LaBarge has worked with such artists as Kim Mitchell, the Irish Rovers and Long John Baldry. He even played guitar on the Fraggles television show for five seasons.

A solo album called Bargaining In earned LaBarge a nomination for most promising male vocalist at the 1984 Juno Awards. Friends Jim Vallance (who co-writes most of Brian Adams' material) and Daniel Lanois (who produced Peter Gabriel's So, U2's The Joshua Tree and Robbie Robertson's new solo album) looked after the drumming and production on the

album's single Dream Away.

"I knew Danny because he owned Grant Avenue Studios in Hamilton," says LaBarge. "He listened to some of my demos and liked my stuff. Everything he knows now, he learned from me."

LaBarge has a sense of humor about his career, which he says began at the age of 12.

"When I first saw The Beatles, that was it," says LaBarge. "I picked up a guitar and played bars all over North America. My sister used to chaperone me then, but I left home at 16."

"I've done every kind of music from bar mitzvahs to acid rock," he says.

LaBarge says part of his musical influence comes from his sisters Marilyn and Gail, who would sing with their Motown records in their Burlington home in the '60s.

"As far as players go my family isn't musical, but we've always had a piano in the house," says LaBarge. "I still love the sing-alongs we have at Christmas with Mom at the piano."

Music has always been an integral part of LaBarge's life. He even met his wife Bev at a Jimi Hendrix concert in 1968.

"We've known each other for 20 years, so Bev knows where I'm coming from," says LaBarge. "She's my biggest fan, but she's also a good critic. She always lays it on the line and tells me how she feels."

With a studio in their Stouffville home, LaBarge spends most of his free time writing music. He considers himself fortunate, because "what I do for a living is my hobby as well."

LaBarge attributes his success in the music business to his love for all types of music. He has enjoyed all the work he has accomplished, from playing on the road and in the studio to doing commercial jingles.

"I stay diversified and stretch out at all different levels," he says. "If I ever had to give advice to a young musician I'd say don't get stuck in one thing. If it becomes work, then you'll either quit or it will sound rotten when you play."

Roommate making obscene phone calls

Dr. Ed Meade is a registered psychologist and director of the Markham Stouffville Family Life Centre. In this column he answers questions from readers.

Q: Two months ago I moved into a house with someone I met through a "shared accommodation" ad in the paper. My roommate and I do not see much of each other and it seems to be working out quite well. Or so I thought.

My concern comes as a result of some accidental eavesdropping on my part. Last week I overheard my roommate making an obscene phone call. The filthy things he was saying shocked me.

Could this man be dangerous? Why does he do it? What if they trace the calls back to this address? I could be held responsible for his actions.

A: Your eavesdropping has brought to light a rather serious social infraction and one that is certainly illegal, although it does not necessarily involve a dangerous person.

These acts may be linked with other social and psychological activities such as voyeurism and exhibitionism—behaviors usually attendant to severe introversion.

A FRIEND IN MEADE

Ed Meade

They are not, however, usually associated with a violent person. I believe the most frequent makers of obscene phone calls are adolescent girls and men who are voyeurs, are rarely involved in cases of rape.

It should be remembered that voyeurism is only when the viewed subject is unaware of being viewed. On the other hand, the exhibitionist is only an exhibitionist when the act is covert and there is an intrusion on an unintended viewer.

With this in mind, it still makes sense to confront your roommate. If that is too difficult, slip out the back, Jack.

Dr. Meade welcomes questions. If your question is published, the name will be withheld. Direct questions to: the Markham Stouffville Family Life Centre, 113 Main St., Markham.



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