

Drummer keeps beat at Canadian music week

Montreal band welcomes Markham member

BY SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Writer

"Drummer looking for band"

This sentence appeared in an advertisement from Oct. 2004 which Justin Dillon placed on the Canadian Web site www.kickinthehead.com, a database created by musicians for musicians.

Mr. Dillon got about 50 replies from bands.

But he didn't like any of them until a band called Perkins replied.

This band was different. "I loved the music — the look and the sound," he said. "I thought it (the sound) was new and fresh and I liked the vocals."

The four-member band from Montreal is considered new rock alternative.

Mr. Dillon, 24, remembers discovering the excitement he felt for music after his father bought a drumset for himself.

The Markham resident started playing the drums when he was seven. He took lessons, played with several bands and studied jazz at Humber College. His strongest musical influences include The Dave Matthews Band and Coldplay.

Mr. Dillon travelled to Montreal for the audition with the Perkins band around this time last year and was hired on the spot to join in last summer's national tour which began in June of 2005. The band spent three weeks travelling across Canada from Quebec to Vancouver in a big van.

Mr. Dillon will play with the band as part of the Canadian Music Week festival in Toronto March 1 to 4. This is Canada's largest annual entertainment event dedicated to the expression and growth of the country's music, media and entertainment industries. The week combines two conferences, a trade show, five awards shows and the Canadian Music Week Festival.

Being selected to play with the band as part of this week is a thrill, according to Mr. Dillon.

"It (Canadian Music Week) is so established in Canada. It is one of the greatest festivals to be part of," he said.

People should come hear the band play during the music week because "it will rock," he said.

The band's CD, called *Sources*, is in stores across Canada.

The first single from the album is called *Casino* and can be heard on radio stations throughout Canada. Also, the video for the song is on rotation at MuchMusic and can be requested by e-mailing ondemand@muchmusic.com.

The band will be playing at the Richmond Lounge at 342 Richmond St. at Peter Street (above the Fez Batik) in downtown Toronto on Thurs. March 2 at 9 p.m.

For more information, go to the band's Web site at www.perkinsmusic.com



Justin Dillon, the drummer for the band Perkins is from Markham. Justin and the rest of Perkins is playing with other up and coming bands during Canadian Music Week next month.

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