

Ramblings...

As we enjoy the hottest summer in Ontario in a long, long time, it feels natural to sit outside with a drink in hand and listen to music. I've spent the better part of July making music, some of it with the best players and songwriters I know.

What's Goin' On...

Happy 40<sup>th</sup> birthday to our friend Joanne. Although she had to make the reservation herself, Joanne and a large group of friends celebrated the milestone with Atlantic Ave. at Lulu's Dine and Dance in early July. The homemade fan club T-shirts were a huge surprise, but not as big as the surprise birthday party which followed a week later, at the house of good friends James and Connie, with Atlantic Ave. once again appearing to entertain the birthday girl. We played outside for the first set, until a sudden thunderstorm left us scrambling to get the gear under cover. The cables were left far too wet to risk setting up the electronics indoors for a 2<sup>nd</sup> set, so we played unplugged, with only acoustic guitar and our voices to carry the whole show. It all worked out great in the end, and maybe we'll be invited back for her 41<sup>st</sup>...



Allister, James L., Debra, Joanne D., James D., Connie L. and Steve

- ▶▶ The Just Plain Folks road trip rolled through Ontario in late June, with stops in Richmond Hill and Oakville. I played at the Richmond Hill show, which was nearly cancelled by a torrential thunderstorm that killed the power in Richmond Hill for over an hour. The lights were back on ten minutes before show time, but a few of the performers had to turn up the volume to be heard over the thunderclaps. Good job, Brian, on promoting and presenting the show.
- ▶▶ Canada Day at Columbia Lake in Waterloo was run as professionally as ever. Crowds turned out in huge numbers to hear the bands, play, and witness the annual fireworks event. Unfortunately, the weather quickly turned from sunny and warm to cold and windy, cold enough in fact to see your breath! The fireworks were delayed by the weather, but the show went on, and I performed with the No Games Band after the fireworks display. Thanks to all the die-hards who stayed for the show, wrapped in picnic blankets or shivering in your shorts!
- ▶▶ I attended the Live8 show in Barrie on July 2nd. Check out my Live8 report at [www.allisterbradley.com](http://www.allisterbradley.com)
- ▶▶ New Year's Eve at Lulu's Dine and Dance is quickly becoming booked up. Atlantic Ave. will be playing the late seating, so if you don't have plans yet and are thinking about coming out, you'd better call NOW and make your reservations!



Jamming, with Ron Beer on the beer box brushes

▶▶ I spent the last week of July locked away at Humber College for a most excellent week of songwriting workshops, panel discussions, and collaboration. The week was spent with "faculty" including Blair Packham, Rik Emmett, Haydain Neale, Andy Kim, Lisa Dalbello, Justin Gray, Damnhait Doyle and others. We talked about the process, wrote



"Goodbye, Bedford Falls". at the Rivoli with Rik Emmett

songs together to practice new techniques, and recorded demos of the songs we had brought or written that week, not to mention the spontaneous get-togethers to collaborate or to jam the night away. On the last night of the week, we jammed for 7 straight hours (sincere apologies to Ed Robertson, whose panel on Friday was attended by many extremely tired students...). The high point was an on-stage performance at Toronto's Rivoli club with Rik Emmett, Terence Gowan and Tim Bovacont! I also had the pleasure of accompanying Pete Cugno, Leah Erbe and Heidelberg songster Byron Jay on their tunes.



With Andy Kim

## Up And Coming...

- » Atlantic Ave. will be back at Lulu's Dine and Dance for one night only in August – Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Come see us as we play from 7:30 to 11:30pm. Future Lulu's dates in September, October and December...
- » At the end of August, Atlantic Ave. will travel to Atlantic Canada for a private performance in St. Andrews by-the-Sea, New Brunswick! Atlantic Ave. does the Atlantic!
- » See [www.allisterbradley.com](http://www.allisterbradley.com) for more information on these and other upcoming appearances.

## AB Fan of the Month...

This section of the newsletter is dedicated this month to the loving memory of Denise Minaker. Denise was a friend for many years, who recently suffered a fatal stroke at the young age of 37 years.

Denise will be remembered as a fun-loving friend to many, a good listener and a hard-working professional. I'll also remember her as a strong supporter of independent music. She was among the first to buy a copy of Barenaked Ladies' "yellow tape", the indie release which preceded the band's break-out album "Gordon". Whenever Denise came out to see an Allister Bradley show, she'd request (without fail) anything by Matchbox Twenty, and I'd always see her smiling as I obliged her with a version of "Unwell" or "Disease". Rob Thomas (Matchbox Twenty) wrote a song called "My, my, my", the lyric of which reads "my, my, my / let your bright light shine / let your words live on / far beyond this life / beyond this life". Denise, your words and actions will live on. God bless.

## Indie Artist of the Month...

A friend (and fan) of mine suggested that I check out Toronto singer/songwriter Greg Wyard. While I haven't had a chance to catch Greg's live show, I've clicked onto his website, and heard some of his recorded material, and I'm a fan!

(from [www.gregwyard.com](http://www.gregwyard.com) :) "Greg Wyard is a songwriter who believes that songwriting is a craft, and each song is its own reward for the work put into it. 'A good song is like a true friend - it will always be there when you need it.' Wyard, who grew up in the south of England before immigrating to Canada at age 13, credits the Beatles, 10cc, Squeeze and Crowded House for giving him his musical foundation. Over several years, he has built on this to develop his own sound, best described as David Gray meets John Mayer."



Greg is a busy performer in and around Toronto, and you owe it to yourself to listen to the clips on his website and check out a live show...

## AB Spin of the Month...



At the moment, I'm listening to Barenaked Ladies' Maroon release. I saw Ed Robertson speak last week, in a songwriting seminar entitled "Anatomy of a Hit". The Ladies' biggest hit is "One Week", but the story of writing that song was too short to fill a one-hour seminar (since Robertson came into a writing session with the chorus already penned, and improvised the verses inside of 4 minutes), so he graced us with his experience writing "Pinch Me", their 2<sup>nd</sup> most successful song to date. This song was inspired by the level of success the band was enjoying at that point, but Robertson couldn't help but feel detached from the fame. He had felt like a 'normal' guy up to this point, who could anonymously observe other celebrities, but suddenly found that people like Alec Baldwin were suddenly introducing themselves to him. He tells the story of bumping into Willem Dafoe in a shopping mall. Having never met, but each one recognizing the other, they

gave the polite head nod and "hey", when Dafoe stopped and smiled, saying to Robertson "It's funny. I know who you are, and you know who I am, but we've never met." Then they went on their way as if even the conversation had never taken place...

Sorry, Ed, your fame is only increasing! Check out [www.bnlmusic.com](http://www.bnlmusic.com) for Barenaked Ladies news and music.

## Support Allister Bradley...

These are the radio stations supporting my album. Listen in and call in your requests:

YOUR FM (98.5 MHz from Waterloo, Ontario, programming "Goodbye, Bedford Falls")	<a href="http://www.yourfm.ca">www.yourfm.ca</a>
WAVE FM (94.7 MHz from Hamilton, Ontario, programming "If Ever I Cried") (AND VOTE ON THEIR WEBSITE FOR "IF EVER I CRIED" FOR THEIR TOP TEN!!)	<a href="http://www.wave947.fm">www.wave947.fm</a>
MIX FM (107.7 MHz from Stratford, Ontario, programming "Ten Years On")	<a href="http://www.1077mixfm.com">www.1077mixfm.com</a>
CBC-Radio (All across Canada)	<a href="http://www.cbc.ca">www.cbc.ca</a>