

Ramblings...

So, April and May saw the breakdown of the "monthly" in this monthly newsletter. It turns out I was busy enough that when I took the time to blink, June was already upon us... As a result, I hope you enjoy this super-charged, longer-than-normal edition, packed with everything I can think of at the moment...

What's Goin' On...

- ▶▶ The March Bluebird North show was a blast. I shared the stage with Arlene Bishop, Tariq and Ernie G., with Liam Titcomb, Moe Berg and Bob Snider joining in for the 2nd set. The crowd was engaged, and the performers delighted all who attended with stories and songs of all types. Look in the dictionary under "folk musician", and it's a shame you won't actually see Bob Snider's picture. Don't pass up a chance to see Bob perform...



Stan Meissner

▶▶ April saw me attending a weekend co-writing "camp" in Toronto, facilitated by successful songwriters Stan Meissner (Celine Dion, Lara Fabian, Farmer's Daughter, Eddie Money, and many more) and Haydain Neale (singer/songwriter, "JackSoul", and studio producer). The weekend found me writing with a talented group of writers, flexing the creative muscle in new ways. We were repeatedly assigned into random writing groups, locked in a room and given a few short hours to write a new song, then perform it for the rest of the group. Stan and Haydain were generous with their assistance and their patience, and the end result was a few great songs and even more great new contacts for my address book...



Haydain Neale

▶▶ Also in April, a gig at Whole Lotta Gelata, the awesome panini and gelato shop on King St. in Waterloo. This solo performance marked the first time I had actually "sung for my supper", but if you've ever eaten there, you'll know it's worth it...

- ▶▶ A week later, an impromptu solo gig at RumRunners pub in Kitchener, to an appreciative crowd, as Hellerman, Bertram & Co. celebrated the end of the busy personal tax season. Way to go, super-accountants!
- ▶▶ May saw Atlantic Ave. playing a Mother's Day show at Lulu's Dine & Dance. The evening was fairly quiet, until (and I know this sounds like the setup for a punchline) three drunken Newfies walked into the bar and joined in with the band.
- ▶▶ Also in May, the double-feature performance at The Lanc, with local celtic band Shenanigan, was such a success that even Mel and Angel Brown upstairs took notice. That was my first performance with the No Games Band, but be sure to catch an upcoming show with the full band, especially July 1st (see below).
- ▶▶ June gigs so far have included another Friday night at Lulu's Dine & Dance, and a couple of outdoor shows - one at the Cambridge Arts Festival in the hot, hot sunshine, and another at the Wallypalooza! festival near Elora, with both Atlantic Ave. and the Wallypalooza! house band "Derry & The Derelicts".
- ▶▶ Wave FM in Hamilton, Ontario has taken a huge liking to "If Ever I Cried" - check out the link on the home page at www.allisterbradley.com to the Wave FM website and the fan voting for the station's top ten!

Up And Coming...

- ▶▶ June 28th, I'll be in Richmond Hill for the "Just Plain Folks" summer road trip and showcase, at The Urban Coyote Uptown Bar & Grill. The night's entertainment runs from 7pm to 10pm as many Ontario singer/songwriters strut their stuff.
- ▶▶ *** Don't miss the annual Canada Day celebrations, July 1st at Columbia Lake in Waterloo. The University of Waterloo's Federation of Students hosts this event every year, with hours of live music, fun and games for the whole family, and a stellar display of fireworks. This year, one small change to the program - the live music WILL CONTINUE after the fireworks, to offer spectators an alternative to joining the chaotic rush out to the car and the over-crowded streets. I'll be performing with the No Games Band immediately after the last explosion (nice opening act!), so relax in your lawn chair and enjoy the show! ***
- ▶▶ Later in July, I'll be in Toronto for Rik Emmett's summer songwriting camp at Humber College. Presenters/Facilitators/Guests will include Ed Robertson (Barenaked Ladies), Damhnait Doyle, Ian Thomas, Tara McLean, Justin Gray, Stephan Moccio and more!
- ▶▶ Notable for later in the year, Atlantic Ave. will travel to Atlantic Canada in August, for a private performance in St. Andrews by-the-Sea, New Brunswick! Atlantic Ave. does the Atlantic!
- ▶▶ Do you have New Year's Eve plans yet? Atlantic Ave. will be playing for the crowd at Lulu's Dine & Dance in Kitchener! More details will be posted later at www.allisterbradley.com, but you can be sure to expect an extra-special menu and lots of cheer!
- ▶▶ See www.allisterbradley.com for more information on these and other upcoming appearances.



Performing at Columbia Lake, Canada Day 2004

Of Special Importance – Fix CanCon...

Since you're reading this newsletter, it would seem that you're a supporter of the independent musician. You may then be interested in the petition currently under distribution to change the way the CRTC requires Canadian radio stations to play Canadian content. The original intention of the CanCon requirement was to promote the development of Canadian artists, and to support the Canadian music production and services economy. Unfortunately, the CanCon requirements are more often satisfied nowadays by the over-playing of top-earning artists who no longer need that support, and who in fact enlist non-Canadian services to produce their albums. Suggested amendments to the CanCon requirements would see incentives for radio stations to support emerging talent, which not only provides welcome promotion for development artists, but also adds more variety and fresh sound to Canadian radio.

Please consider signing the petition – you'll find a link with more information and the petition itself, on the home page at www.allisterbradley.com.

AB Fan(s) of the Month...

Here's to James and Joanne den Ouden, who regularly come out to see Atlantic Ave. at our various appearances. It must be karma, since the last time they came out to see us, they weren't even expecting us to be performing, but it turned out we had the chance to serenade them as they celebrated their xxth wedding anniversary (I can keep a secret). And the couple that stays together, plays together – James and Joanne make a great team as coach and manager of daughter Julie's travel soccer team (go, Kitchener Spirit!). Is there a pre-occupation with names beginning with 'J' in this family? Dunno... I wonder what they named the dog...

Indie Artist of the Month...

I had the pleasure of meeting Pete Cugno at songwriting camp in April. I'd heard Pete's parody songs in the past, as he made a name for himself with hockey songs and political satire (check out www.petecugno.com if you don't believe me!) While Pete is well-known for this type of music, and from his days as a radio personality on Toronto's CFNY FM, he does have a more serious side. I saw this side at the "camp" as he tackled various song topics with his co-writers and produced solid results, ranging from emotional songs of loss to toe-tapping nearly-bluegrass sing-alongs.

Pete's previous releases include "Peter Vox – Eclectic" (very reminiscent of David Byrne & Talking Heads), and "The Elementals – Well Strung". He is currently recording an album of non-comedic songs (or so he tells me!) to be released later this year. Definitely, check this guy out, you won't be sorry...



AB Spin of the Month...

I've got it all, or at least nearly all, in my CD collection (yes, I'll live and die by the CD, though I do own an MP3 player). I switch back and forth from classic rock to new pop, a touch of country, classical, whatever I can find. This month, I'm going to do a bit of a cheat, since my Spin Of The Month is also another indie artist (sorry, Pete, you'll have to share the spotlight!). Blair Packham's first solo CD, "Everything That's Good", is a collection of strong pop songs that will grab your attention with catchy hummers and insightful lyrics. There's no mistaking the Beatles influence on these tracks, but there's nothing stolen – it's all original, consistently well-crafted music that will have you dancing and sometimes laughing along with him. Check Blair out at www.blairpackham.com.

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") www.yourfm.ca
 WAVE FM (94.7 MHz from Hamilton, Ontario, programming "If Ever I Cried") www.wave947.fm
 (AND VOTE ON THEIR WEBSITE FOR "IF EVER I CRIED" FOR THEIR TOP TEN!!)

Other supporting stations:

MIX FM (107.7 MHz from Stratford, Ontario, programming "Ten Years On")
 CBC-Radio (All across Canada)

www.1077mixfm.com
www.cbc.ca