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Hear here: the winning video is . . .

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Talk about rocking the vote! Nearly 2,500 online viewers voted in the The Record's first Within Earshot Music Video Contest, which saw more than 30 video submissions from a wide array of local bands and musicians.

The songs represented practically every genre of contemporary music -- from hip-hop to country to metal to folk -- and showcased the vibrant, diverse indie music scene in Waterloo Region and Guelph.

But there can be only one winner of the \$1,500 grand prize (plus the cred and bragging rights that come with it).

And the winner is . . .

. . . wait for it . . .

. . . Dan Bossenberry of Elmira, whose video for the song *Come Alive* earned top honours with 407 votes.

The secret to Bossenberry's success: a catchy song with a universal theme, a few talented friends who own nice cameras, and a healthy dose of beginner's luck.

Dan, an 18-year-old student at Elmira District Secondary School, has only been playing music for a few years, though his considerable talents belie his limited experience.

Bossenberry handled not only vocal duties in *Come Alive*, but also guitar, bass, banjo and accordion.

When he heard about the music video contest in October, he enlisted the help of Craig Wood, his close friend since kindergarten. Craig, in turn, enlisted the help of his big brother, Alexander, who runs an independent film company, Zander Wood Productions.

Over several days in October, the trio shot the video at locations around Waterloo Region, including the Kaufman Lofts in downtown Kitchener and some farmers' fields around Elmira.

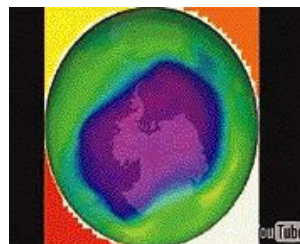
In the video, Dan is depicted sitting at a simple desk in a vast open field, composing a letter on a typewriter. It's a story about a lost love and an uncertain future. It's not autobiographical, Dan insists, but not entirely fictional either.

Though Dan's video for *Come Alive* earned more votes than any other, it was hardly a landslide victory. Every video in the contest had fans, and it was a close race to the finish.

Here is a rundown of the eight highest-ranked videos in the contest:

1. *Come Alive* by Dan Bossenberry.

2. *Atlantis*, by Kingdoms. This metal-core band from Kitchener trades throat-shredding vocals with melodic choruses for a powerful, emotive sound. The video features live footage shot from a rowdy show at Kitchener's King Street Theatre Centre.



3. What a Day, by Allister Bradley. An uplifting carpe diem song that showcases Bradley's versatile vocals, with a video shot at several familiar locations around Kitchener, from Victoria Park to Fairview Park mall.

4. Stray Dogs, by Saigon Hookers. These tireless troubadours of the K-W punk scene repurposed black and white film and cartoon footage for a completely original, provocative and frequently hilarious video.

5. Darker Longer, by Calliope's Radio. A wistful, nostalgic and uplifting video by one of Waterloo Region's best folk-pop outfits. An elderly woman is transported to the carefree days of her youth by the power of music and memory.

6. Big Oil, by Rough Draft. Both a lament for the spoiled environment and an attack on the oil-hungry appetites of the Dubya administration, this video combines unsettling imagery with an impassioned plea for change.

7. Pinocchio, by The Shady J's. Perhaps the quirkiest, cutest video in the contest, this submission sees a boxy robot roaming the streets and campuses of Waterloo in search of hugs and new friends. A strange, satisfying trip with a funk-pop soundtrack.

8. Redemption, by West Memphis Suicide. Cambridge's reigning metal gods crank the amps to 11 and unleash a furious blast of distorted guitars, gritty vocals and enough bass to melt your speakers.

Honourable mentions go to Ann Marie Pincivero, Torsen's Tarrow, Patrick Christopher and Personal Helicopter, all of whom fared well in the voting (several were tied with each other in the voting). Kudos to everyone who created videos, making the contest.

The highest-ranked videos will remain posted on the contest page at, www.therecord.blogs.com/withinearshot.

Check out next Thursday's edition of Nightlife for the full story on how Dan and his friends created the video that claimed the grand prize.

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