

Rockin' in the suburbs

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Take four Mississauga high-school chums, age them for eight years – and you've got planets aligning for the Meligrove Band.

Jason Nunes, bassist Mike Small and drummer Darcy Rego stand outside the Drake Hotel on the red carpet like super-famous film stars. (Guitarist Andrew "I'm not the dude from Sloan" Scott is M.I.A.). But they're still suburban boys at heart – they mock their hometown.

"There really is nothing to do in Mississauga," Rego says, groaning. "It definitely laid out the groundwork for us to stay in our houses and make music. We'd go to the same forested area to get hammered and walk to this crappy little mall every weekend and whistle at girls, and be really afraid when they whistled back. And that was about it."

But some things don't change. Meligrove Band formed when the guys were 17, and according to Nunes, they're better friends now than ever. "I love these guys," he says.

While they don't have BF4EVA visibly tattooed anywhere, they are the first Canadian band to ink a deal with V2 Records, home to the White Stripes, Grandaddy and Stereophonics.

"It's pretty awesome," Small says, "But at the same time it's disappointing,

because I thought we'd find out if Jack and Meg White (of the White Stripes) were siblings or married, but we just found out they're married siblings."

Rego chimes in about the van they got after they signed.

"It's straight out of *Who's the Boss*," he laughs. "I don't know if it's the squeaking of the tires, but every time we make a left turn, all you hear is ..."

And he hums the theme song.

"There really is nothing to do in Mississauga."

– Darcy Rego

everything is coming up roses for these guys. They can pretty much quit their day jobs. So Rego watches Nunes clean house, and Small worked for the AIDS Conference in Toronto this year and almost shook hands with Bill Clinton. "He talks like Elvis," he laughs.

Toronto pop-rockers By Divine Right's Jose Contreras produced the foursome's latest project, *Planets Conspire*. Instead of the cutesy power-pop prominent on the band's first two efforts, *Stars and Guitars* and *Let it Grow*, the new disc has captured the gritty raw energy steaming up Meligrove's live sets.

"It's kind of always what we stood for and he was the person we needed to tell us to stop striving for perfection in recordings," Small says. "He wanted us to do everything live on analog tape and go for it."

But what the heck is a "meligrove?"

"It has to remain a mystery. Like Scooby Doo," Rego says.



– WENN

Ambassador Adams

Living Canadian music legend is also a great guy, say those who know him

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When Bryan Adams was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame earlier this year, those who know him – both professionally and personally – waxed eloquent about the Canadian music legend.

Manager Bruce Allen describes the *Summer of '69* star as someone who would have succeeded at anything.

"Somebody said something about Bryan Adams one time which I've always filed at the back of my brain," Allen says to JAM! Music. "If he made a decision in his younger years to be a neurosurgeon, he'd be

the best neurosurgeon in the world. He just is that type of person – 'If I'm going to do this, then I'm going to do this the best.'"

In addition to professional ambition and drive, Adams' longtime guitarist Keith Scott credits his boss with the personal touch.

"I can't tell you how many times Bryan has involved me personally in something that he's been able to participate in," Scott says, citing invitations to dinner with Wayne Gretzky, flying over the Taj Mahal in a private plane and tickets to a New York Rangers game. "He loves to include everybody," he adds. "It's a group thing. He's amazing for

that."

A driven musician and generous friend, Adams' manager says worldwide humanitarian is another title the Kingston, Ont., native has earned.

"His actions speak louder than words," Allen says, noting Adams' involvement in the first Amnesty tour, Live Aid, Live 8, the Prince's Trust, the Nelson Mandela Freedom Concert and *Tears are Not Enough*.

Allen adds that Adams was the first western rock artist to leave the beaten path and perform in Pakistan, Vietnam and Turkey.

"He's Canada's number-one ambassador by far," Allen says. "There's nobody close."

Pie and dancing for indie faves

Up-and-coming Guelph indie faves The D'Urbervilles are making their mark on the radar by playing shows with Controller:Controller/You Say Party! We Say Die! They have a university tour booked this month with The Mark Inside, as well two gigs at the Pop Montreal festival.

But did you also know the band is into dancing and pie?

"Sometimes we do trivia between songs, and the winners get free doughnuts or slices of pie," keyboardist/guitarist/singer John O'Regan says to ChartAttack.com. "I guess doughnuts and pie might not make someone dance, but we're happy just making connections with the audience. We don't want to force people too far outside of their comfort zones, but we have been known to knock over our fair share of bar furniture in order to get people moving."

The D'Urbervilles have been making airwaves with their EP and capturing the ears of the Canadian music industry, especially with the danceable *We're Blowing Up!* and *Shout it Out*.

"It would be awesome to sell lots of CDs, and hopefully we will, but I think our main goal as an opening band should be to get the audience and the other bands excited about interacting with one another and having a great time," O'Regan says.

– Jenny Yuen



– Davida Nemeroff

Meligrove Band is the first Canadian band to ink a deal with V2 Records.

No spaghetti for Geddy

Geddy Lee doesn't stuff his face while on tour.

The Toronto-born frontman of Rush takes good care of his voice, especially when it comes to warming up for shows, according to bassplayer.com.

"I have to make sure I'm in good physical shape before a tour starts," he says.

"I'm on a pretty strict diet on the road. I have to avoid anything that's mucalitic – dairy, spicy food. It's basically a cleaner diet."

– By Nina Dragicevic



– www.rush.com

Kardinal "Collaboration" Offishall

Offishall gets around

Kardinal Offishall, Toronto's hip-hop star, teamed up recently with Bedouin Soundclash, a reggae-dub band that picked up a Juno this year for New Group of The Year. The trio joined forces with Offishall for the remix of *Last Soldier Standing*, the lead track on the rapper/producer's latest album, *Fire & Glory*.

Offishall adds this hook-up to a resumé already filled with

other collaborations.

His past includes work with Pharrell Williams, Busta Rhymes, Rihanna and Method Man. His future looks just as busy.

"I'm producing for Estelle," he tells JAM! Music, "as well as Sway, who is the number-one rap artist out of England right now. (Plus, I'm going to) do some stuff with Akon and De La Soul."

– Nina Dragicevic



– www.kardinaloffishall.com



– tragicallyhip.com

Stopping a nautical disaster

Many music artists take on causes – animal rights, poverty, racism. But for The Tragically Hip's Gord Downie, one environmental issue in particular has hit too close to home.

Downie toured solo and performed at three ports on Lake Ontario recently to draw attention to two issues: how lakefront communities are affected by decisions made regarding ports and lakes, and how little say they have in the matter.

The Hip have had a recording studio in Bath, Ont., for 10 years, where Downie says LaFarge Canada plans to build a plant to burn tires and plastics.

"I just assumed people smarter than me were taking care of it," he tells Canadian Press. "I'm learning how few rights we have. A little bit of what this tour is about is bringing back that voice for communities."

– Nina Dragicevic