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Weather



TODAY:
CLOUDY

HIGH OF -7
LOW OF -20



TUESDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -5
LOW OF -17



WEDNESDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF 3
LOW OF -12



THURSDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF 3
LOW OF -4



FRIDAY:
SNOW

HIGH OF 1
LOW OF -12

Random Chance band- the name says it all!



THE SCOOP MABLE HASTINGS

I always find it interesting when interviewing a band to ask them how they came to be and where the band originated from. According to rumour, the Rolling Stones began as a grubby conclave of students and bohemians playing a then esoteric music based on Chicago blues in pubs and clubs in and around West London. The Beatles, according to historians originated in July, 1957, when 16-year old John Lennon met 15-year old Paul McCartney for the first time at the St. Peter's Parish Church Garden in Woolton, Liverpool.

Local band, Random Chance landed its first engagement for Sutton's St.Jean celebration but the band had not settled on a name. One of two original founding members, John Hawley,was on the phone with then lead guitarist, Malcolm Johnston discussing this predicament. Hawley recalls the conversation going something like this...

John H: "Malcolm, we have to come up with a name for the band and soon!"
Malcolm: "Ok, okay well, I don't know or can't think of anything right now but all I can say is that we got together sortaby random chance didn't we?"

John H: "You got it Malcolm!"
Malcolm: "I did?"
John H: "You just found the name!"
Malcolm: "What do you mean?"
John H: "Yes, you said Random Chance....Random Chance IS the name!"

Random Chance band members have come and gone and much like the name, when by random chance Chris Ward and John Hawley were performing together as a duo in the beginning, a bass player who heard



COURTESY OF JOHN SAMBORSKY

them invited the duo to his music studio and Jean Garceau then joined the band. The three added a drummer, Trevor Conniff from Glen Sutton followed by Dawn McKenzie(vocals) and now John (Sam) Samborsky. This group of 70-year-old rockers (with the exception of a young 57-year-old member) are now performing all over the Eastern Townships and beyond.

In amongst these retirees, front and center you find the lovely and talented songstress, Dawn McKenzie. Many ask how Dawn joined the band. This happened some ten years ago after singing with the original Random Chance and some other musicians at a half hazard get together on a Sunday afternoon.

"We had so much fun that we met on Monday and again on a Tuesday of that week," recalls Ward. "The bass player, drummer and lead guitarist were added after that gathering and Dawn followed soon after," Ward explained.

John (Sam) Samborsky is the newest member of the group and he could not be happier to assume the lead guitarist position. Sam is a multi-talented musician known by many in Potton as a bass player but with such versatile musical ability he can play multiple instruments.

"I'm having a blast," said Samborsky. "This is a group of people who love music, have talent and who have their hearts in the right place; I'm proud to join them," he added.

The Random Chance Band performs a wide variety of music but mostly classic rock 'n roll. For example, Roy Orbison's Crying and Pretty Woman, the Beatles' Drive My Car, Honky TonkWoman by the Stones to Drift Away by Dobie Grey. The band also has a following of devoted friends and neighbours who rarely miss the opportunity to dance while listening to their friends perform quite often for good causes.

"We do a lot of fundraisers," explains Ward. "We also do private parties and last summer we were hired by Ville de Lac Brome as part of the summer series, "les Vendredis Festifs," he said. "Since our beginning, The Random Chance Band has raised over \$36,000 for various not for profit community organizations. Recently we supported a fundraiser for Ukraine refugees by donating \$3800 to the Red Cross for this purpose," said Hawley.

The band will be performing at the Cowansville Legion on April 13th to raise money for Cowansville's Pleins Rayons organization and have other engagements planned throughout the summer and of course, the usual performance at the Big Brome Fair in the fall.

The band is always eager to expand its performing opportunities and hopes to be invited by various local municipalities and causes to perform at functions held in communities including: festivals, music in the park events and more...

Ben by Daniel Shelton

