



ARTS & CULTURE

Descendants *Rollin'* across Canada

Small crowd shows up at McInnes Room show

BY KAREN PARKER

The Irish Descendants may have been born and raised in Canada, but they are firmly rooted in the Irish tradition.

Their appearance at the McInnes Room on Saturday night was part of the first leg of a cross-Canada tour promoting their new album. *Rollin' Home* is a mix of traditional, original, and cover songs — many of them fan favourites from the band's live show.

With the departure of founding member D'Arcy Broderick last year, the Irish Descendants found themselves in search of a new member. Eamonn O'Rourke, a renowned New York session musician originally from Donegal, Ireland, stepped in to fill the gap. His Irish style of playing — most notably on the fiddle — adds much to both the new album and the Descendants' live show. There are two superb fiddle sets on *Rollin' Home* which showcase O'Rourke's talent.

In addition to regular band activities, the Irish Descendants will be spending some time in Toronto this summer. In Toronto they will be featured performers in "Needfire", a celebration of Celtic

culture which opens at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in June.

With the release of *Rollin' Home* and their busy tour schedule, the Irish Descendants are one of many Canadian Celtic musicians who are successfully putting themselves on the map.

Unfortunately, few people arrived at the concert in time to enjoy the Celtic-folk music of the first opening act, BC's Jeremy Greenhouse. Even when the show was well underway and the Mahones had taken the stage, the crowd at the McInnes room remained sparse. Perhaps this concert would have been better suited to a smaller venue such as the Grawood.

University students, many of whom were obviously there to see the Mahones, mingled with older Irish Descendants fans. The Mahones fans were not disappointed. The Kingston, Ontario band played a fairly long set of the fast, loud drinking songs that they're best known for, and a fair number of people took to the dance floor and moved about in a fashion that seemed to combine moshing and jigging.

After a short break, the Irish Descendants took to the stage. They played a lot of material from the new

album, and also threw in a few old favourites, such as "The Rattlin' Bog". The song reached a manic pace towards the end, as the Descendants rattled through lyrics faster than Sharon, Lois and Bram ever could.

Lead singer Con O'Brien says of a recent Toronto gig, "It was like a big rock concert. People were moshing and body surfing." Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on how you look at it) there was no bodysurfing at the McInnes room on Saturday night. With a drum kit and a smoke machine in their live show, though, it's obvious that the band is trying hard to widen their appeal.

They also performed an amusing arrangement of the song "Peter Street," which was an a cappella number on one of their previous albums. The new live version has a steady drum beat behind the vocals which makes it sound more like a contemporary dance hit than a traditional Irish tune.

The Descendants already have two gold albums under their belt, and though O'Brien admits that their 1996 CD, *Living on the Edge*, was "a bit of a sleeper", they have great expectations for the new album. *Rollin' Home* hits the streets on April 14th.



File photo by Katie Teed

WOULD YOU
RATHER WORK
FOR A
COMPANY OR
BUILD ONE?

Let your next step take you closer to the top ranks. Become a Certified General Accountant. The comprehensive and flexible professional accounting designation.

Becoming a CGA means you'll have more choices. What's more, you'll be learning how to make practical, day-to-day decisions about real money in a real business. Right from the start.

All of which means you're building a company and eventually, maybe even running it. And doesn't running a business sound better than just working for one?

For more information contact:
Certified General Accountants Association
of Nova Scotia
416-5251 Duke Street
Halifax, NS B3J 1P3

(902) 425-4923 or toll free 1-800-561-7110
e-mail: office@cga-n.s.org
Internet:
<http://ccn.cs.dal.ca/Education/CGA/cgahp.html>



Certified General Accountants
Association of Nova Scotia
Suite 416, 5251 Duke Street
Halifax, NS B3J 1P3

NOVA SCOTIA

**GRAWOOD VARSITY
TIGER SPECIAL**
TIGER BURGER PLATTER
&
28 oz. TIGER DRAUGHT
ONLY \$7.99
WITH TICKET STUB
FROM VARSITY GAME

**EVERY WEDNESDAY
OPEN MIC
NIGHT!**
COME DOWN
TO THE
GRAWOOD
& SHOW OFF
YOUR TALENT!



Friday, March 27
Salsa Picante
Saturday, March 28
Big Band Hi-Energy Jazz Funk
with Trevor Wentzell

Thursday, April 2
The Claymen from Toronto
Saturday, April 4
Dr. Yellowfever & the Jive
CD release party

Monday - Open-mic nights, hosted by Chris Reble
Thursday - Club nights, groovy sounds of Murray Trider
Corner of Market & George - 492-CAFE