



# The Inbreds: big musical fish in a small pond

BY RYAN LASH

While the plastic people in Barrington Gate whined and complained, the Blues Corner hosted a gala party starring the Inbreds, with guest appearances by Speedo and Nine Pound

succeeds in making the bass and drum duo sound anything like a bass and drum duo. Instead the sound conjures images of a much bigger band.

The band was started in 1992 by Mike O'Neill and Dave Ullrich in Kingston, Ontario.

own, even nominating the duo for an ECMA last month.

A few years ago, Halifax was considered the music capital of Canada. With bands like Sloan, Jale, The Super Friendz and Hardship Post, Eastern Canada was the place to be, and Halifax

"Halifax bands". It's a list that they seem happy to be added to.

"One of the reasons we moved out to Halifax was because there was a number of bands that we liked quite a bit, and that continues to be true," said bassist and lead singer Mike O'Neill.

"The plan is that we're here as a band, and we want to keep doing it here as a band," said drummer Dave Ullrich.

But how long will they want to stay in a town where the music scene is shutting down? With the closure of venues and the departure of big name bands, Halifax isn't the music mecca that it was when they first moved here. How are they going to ensure that the town they live in is still a musically relevant place to be?

"Helping bands out is an

unconscious thing, it's something that you do," said O'Neill. "It wasn't as though [we thought] 'Oh, what band can we take out on our tour? Well, we better take a local band and put something back in.'

It wasn't like that."

"If [helping bands] wasn't unconscious and it was conscious, like you had a list [of bands to promote], that would be gross. Fortunately and naturally, we talk about bands that are from here," O'Neill added.

Nice try, but as an established band in Halifax, whether they're from here or not, they have a responsibility to do as much as

they can to nurture the wilting scene that still barely exists. Play as much as they can, talk as much as they can and keep those MuchEast cameras rolling.



Mike O'Neill of the Inbreds: a cure for the musical drought in Halifax, or just drainage? (Photo by Ryan Lash)

Weakling. The occasion for the show was the release of the Inbreds' new CD.

*Winning Hearts* marks the fourth release for the band. It

And though it seems most Haligonians are quick to distance themselves from all things West, the city has accepted this band as one of its

was the centre of it all. But in the post-Sloan musical drought that currently plagues the city, people seem desperate to add the Inbreds to the list of

# Zuckerbaby kills the video star

BY DAN HILCHEY

"But I'm not even supposed to be here tonight!"

Initially, the fact that I was missing the Inbreds' record release party on Friday night did not place me in the best mood for reviewing the Zuckerbaby show at the Greenwood. However, this foursome from Calgary immediately exceeded my expectations for two important reasons. First of all, they did not sound like a second rate facsimile of those "big" Canadian bands like The Tragically Hip and Our Lady Peace that just about everybody seems to enjoy listening to except me. Second, Zuckerbaby played a good show.

The band opened their set with an infectious pop-rocker called "Shampoo", which firmly wedged itself into my head for the rest of the night. Other standouts

from their self-titled debut album which made it into their set included "Heavy" and "Andromeda", which has received a fair amount of airplay on MuchMusic (a fact which my non-cable television had left me oblivious to until that night).

Zuckerbaby also performed an inspired cover of The Buggles' early 80's hit "Video Killed The Radio Star", which received one of the best audience responses of the evening, and an encore which included a "Happy Birthday" (a la Concrete Blonde) for their sound engineer's 27th birthday.

Zuckerbaby played together really well, and the individual components of the band made this possible, especially with regard to the solid playing of drummer Wayne Stadler and the effects-laden guitar of Reed Shimozawil. Reed and vocalist Andrew

Eichhorn are the main songwriters for Zuckerbaby, and their style of snappy pop works very well live.

The band also interacted well with the crowd. They gave shouts out for a popular brand of Nova Scotian beer and talked about why they cannot cover Ozzy Osbourne songs ("I just can't sing like that," confided Eichhorn).

Lack of heavy metal worship aside, Zuckerbaby's performance was a lot of fun and definitely worth experiencing. They showed that their music can stand on its own without relying on overplayed video clips like so many crappy MuchMusic bands do.

And although I'll probably save my money to buy the new Inbreds album, Zuckerbaby's album might be worth checking out sometime, since it may be a while before they make it back to the east coast.

Kick up some dust.  
Gazette Classifieds

