

Sunfish rises in the east

BY KATHERINE WHITE

Sunfish is one of the best new bands to come out of Cape Breton in the last few years. They won the Music-Spirit East Contest in 1994 and are currently touring their CD *Mola Mola*. They recently collected a Muchmusic video award for Best Independent Video for their single "Difference." Sunfish is appearing Friday at the Birdland with Glueleg.

The trio from Sydney, NS includes Tom Fidgen (guitar/vocals), Scott Brown (bass), and Mike Morrison (drums). Tom was in Fredericton on Tuesday but took time out to talk to *the Gazette*.

Gaz: No one likes to put themselves into categories, but for the people who aren't familiar with your music, how would you describe your sound?

Tom: Gee, I guess rock, good music, original music, Cape Breton music.

Gaz: In 1994 you won the Music-Spirit East Contest. Is that what got you started?

Tom: Yeah, that's where we got the money to record our first songs. So I guess that's what kinda got the ball rolling.

Gaz: Congratulations on the Muchmusic Video award. Were you guys surprised to win?

Tom: Yeah, we were really surprised. We couldn't believe it. It

was fun.

Gaz: How much has the award helped CD sales?

Tom: [*Mola Mola*] is selling really good, but the video has kind of peaked and is going down now. Much plays videos for 14 weeks, and then after that they just kind of play it sporadically every now and again.

Gaz: Are there plans for the next video?

Tom: This month we're filming a new video for the next single, which will be out in January. That will be for "Nathalie."

Gaz: I understand that you got a deal with an Australian record label. What can you tell us about the upcoming tour? And how are you guys doing over there?

Tom: [The tour's] still on. It got moved to March. The label is TWA (The World's Address). They're doing real good for us; there's a lot of publicity and hype. There's been reviews in all the major newspapers and magazines.

The video's getting played over there, too. The video isn't as big over there as it is in Canada, it's mostly radio over there and a lot of the stations are picking up the single. It's a lot newer over there; to us the single is kind of old.

Gaz: You guys get a lot of support from home in Cape Breton, you've been doing a lot of touring, and now with the video award, what do you think has had the biggest influence on your



MUSIC

Sunfish

at the Birdland on Friday, November 10
Opening Band: Glueleg

growing popularity?

Tom: The video has helped an awful lot, but I always think that word of mouth (is the biggest). All over Atlantic and Eastern Canada we've played at least once, and then kinda through word of mouth the next time you go (there) you notice the crowd's a little bit bigger.

In Saint John last night there were people who saw us last April when we opened for Change of Heart and (have been following)... the video and stuff. So I think it's playing live, definitely.

Gaz: Any plans for a new CD?

Tom: Every night we might throw in a few newer songs but we haven't written anything or sat down and played anything or tried to work anything new out in probably close to four months because we've been so busy touring. We're pretty much booked until April. We're looking at fall for recording another album.

Gaz: *Mola Mola* has a lot of traditional sounds on it. Should we expect that from the new CD?

Tom: I wouldn't say that there will be any traditional instruments

on the new CD. It'll probably sound more like we sound live.

Gaz: In the past months you've been touring with a lot of different bands: Who do you like touring with best?

Tom: I guess Glueleg right now. It's just fun. They're on the same label as we are, in Canada, which is Liquid Records. Us and them are the only two bands on this label, it's a new label. It's an independent label. It's a great bunch of guys, we all get along really well.

Gaz: Where else will you be for the next little while?

Tom: Thursday we're in Sackville (New Brunswick), Friday at the Birdland, and Sunday in Sydney.

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