



NIAGARA *this* WEEK

Niagara Rhythm Section lives on at Corks

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The doors may be closing for good at the historic Anchorage Motel Bar and Grill but long-time musical fixture, the Niagara Rhythm Section, aren't letting that stop the music.

After playing every Saturday night for over six years, bandleader Steve Goldberger said it's sad knowing they'll never play there again.

"It's still quite a shock," he said on Friday, one day before the band's last performance at the Anchorage. "We had guests booked until next March."

The Niagara Rhythm Section is a unique musical act to the Niagara region. Seasoned veterans like Goldberger on bass and vocals, Steve Grisbrook on guitar and vocals, Herb Nelson on keyboard, Dave Norris on drums and Penner MacKay on percussion, are joined each week by special guests from all over Canada that join the band with no rehearsal or preparation. Anything goes and anything can happen.

Goldberger said the closure of the Anchorage will affect the band members on both a professional and personal level. Although they've been playing there together for six years, MacKay and Nelson have been playing there for nine. Prior to their gig with the Niagara Rhythm Section, the duo played there during Sunday brunch. Goldberger said they also visited the restaurant on a regular basis as patrons.

"We would go there to eat all of the time with friends and family," he said.

However, fans of the band need not fret, as there won't be a hiccup in the band's performance schedule.

Starting Saturday Nov. 13 the band will be playing live from Corks Restaurant and Wine Bar at 19 Queen St. in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"Corks is a new place and they were looking to get some live acts there, and the timing worked out perfect," said Goldberger. "It'll be exciting for the people who come out to see us all of the time to be able to see us in a new environment."

James Brown will be playing an acoustic set on Friday nights, and Goldberger said they were pitched to Corks as a package deal with the Niagara Rhythm Section taking over on Saturdays. The only problem now is trying to fit the six-piece band into a smaller space.

"We'll have to scale down equipment-wise and fit in," he said with a laugh. "But we're musicians, we're used to making adjustments based on space."

The Niagara Rhythm Section's debut performance at Corks will feature vocalist John Dickie, described by Goldberger as an amazing, versatile singer that takes a standard song and reinvents it into his own unique creation.



Steve Goldberger and the Niagara Rhythm Section have moved to Corks in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

To keep up to date on the band, visit www.stevegoldberger.com and look for them under 'Steve's bands' tab.

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