

COMMUNITY

Stampede to present VirgilStock 2007, a concert to attract evening crowd

Move over Woodstock, music history—at least be prepared for locally. Organizers of the Virgil

Stampede, the two-day event that has been the harbinger of spring in Niagara-on-the-Lake for more than 30 years, have decided its time to add some new entertainment to the popular event.

VirgilStock 2007 will offer two local (or mostly local) bands and one from Ohio, providing four hours of music at the Meridian Credit Union on the Saturday night of the stampede, May 19, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. It has been planned to attract the large crowds—and growing every year—that turn out for the mud run.



Dave Norris, Steve Goldberger and Penner MacKay often perform together as the Niagara Rhythme Section, and will play at VirgilStock 2007.

Music this week at



TODAY, SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH
THE BIG ALL DAY ST. PATRICKS PARTY

FOOD • MUSIC • FUN

SUNDAY, MARCH 18TH
VOX VIOLINS - TRADITIONAL - FROM 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

FRIDAY, MARCH. 23RD
WILL ROWE WITH TOM BRUNO - FROM 9:00 P.M.

GREAT BEER • GREAT FOOD • GREAT CRAIC
245 King Street • Niagara-on-the-Lake
Tel: 905-468-4443

The Grill at The Epicurean

Join us Thursdays for

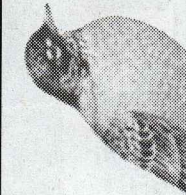
PETE'S MARKET HOUSE

1701 Pine Ave.,
Niagara Falls, U.S.A.

1-716-282-7225

Niagara's #1 Steakhouse & Pub

~~~~~  
**FISH FRY or  
FISH & SHRIMP**



## Robin Howe Wine Country Catering

We have many years of experience  
offering fine food service and



Sharon VanNoort of the Virgil Business Association, which has staged the stampede since its earliest days, is working with parks and recreation director Clive Buist and former Niagara District Secondary School student Jesse Nickel, a young man with a history of presenting concerts in town.

VanNoort is excited about the addition of the concert to the stampede schedule of events, the enthusiastic feedback she has already been receiving from the community and the ease with which it is all coming together. She could have booked more bands and has a back-up list for next year, but three is all there will be time for, she says.

The bands that will play will be featuring such a cross-section of music that they should appeal to all ages and fill the arena.

"The mud run has become such a popular event it brings out the crowds," she says, "but after it's over there is little in the way of entertainment, except for the rides, especially for the kids aged about 15 and up. But the concert will be great for families too. We're hoping that instead of planning something after the mud run, people will stay and head on over to the arena."

Please turn to page 17

## Fringe local will be featured at this year's stampede

Continued from page 16

The Niagara Rhythm Section, as described by bass player and singer Steve Goldberger, is a collective of veteran musicians who play with guest artists locally each week. The music varies from blues to jazz, country and rock, and the group that will appear at VirgilStock 2007 will bring a cross section of classic rock, blues and country tunes that will appeal to all ages.

Goldberger splits his time between Toronto and NOTL, and has been "dubiously dubbed," as he

says, the Fringe Local, a name that has spilled over to the band that exudes a fresh "jamming" sound each show. With him will be Neil Chapman on guitar vocals, an "amazing talent" who has worked with Buffy St. Marie, Rough Trade, Alannah Miles, Dan Hill and many others—"this guy's a riot," says Goldberger.

Steve Grisbrook, one of the regulars with the Niagara Rhythm Section, will also be part of the group at VirgilStock, on guitar and vocals. Dave Norris, who has been working steadily with

Goldberger for more than 10 years, and Penner MacKay (aka Matinee Slim)—both well-known musicians locally who have also worked with their share of talented and popular musicians—will provide the rhythm section.

Also in the line-up for that evening is Thomas Williams, a band created by Andrew and Jesse MacKay, local musicians who are playing the Toronto scene these days.

Andrew on drums and Jesse on guitar and vocals describe their new band as "funky, energetic and

soulful, with a strong streamlined pop sensibility."

They have opened for artists such as Bedouin Sound Clash, Jacksoul and Sam Roberts, and should appeal to audiences aged 15 to 50.

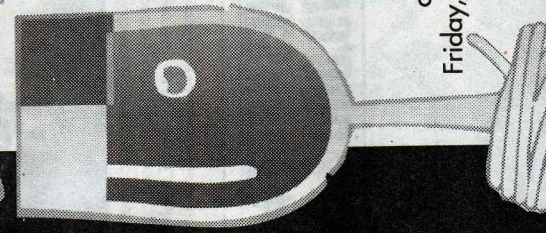
The third presentation is a duo called Katie and Pat from Ohio, and come well-recommended, says VanNoort.

Tickets are \$10 and include the price of the gate admission. Tickets will be available at local businesses, or at the door if they are not sold out by stampede weekend.

Come

Join Us

for a  
distinctive  
Opening  
Night



We are pleased  
to announce the  
REOPENING

of our Restaurant on  
Friday, March 16th, at 5:00 pm.

Chef Ron will be  
presenting a singular

**The Anchorage**  
**COME IN  
AND TRY  
OUR DAILY  
SPECIALS**

Join us for the  
**Niagara Rhythm  
Section**  
with guests

March 17th

**Great North**

Please

Hot and