

Alex Sault and the Never Never Band

By **Chris McGowan**

Music touches most people's lives in some shape or form; it brings back memories, relieves stress and is one of the few activities that involve using our entire brain. It has surprising benefits to both physical and mental health and music has touched the life of Alex Sault in so many ways.

Sault is a grade nine student at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School in Aurora and he is currently studying music at The Arts located in Aurora as well. ?My Mom got me involved with piano when I was little and it went from there? said Sault. His interest in music grew and he started playing guitar at age 10, which was followed by the saxophone by grade seven. He is quite an accomplished musician for a 14 year old.

The Arts School encourages musicians to challenge themselves and encourages students to keep learning. Between the Aurora and Newmarket locations, the Arts have over 1200 students and 50+ music teachers. They provide an atmosphere through the Summer Ultimate Rock Band Camp where inspiring musicians meet other musicians and form a band if they desire and that is exactly what Sault has done.

The band Never Never was formed as a result of the rock band camp experience which includes Sault who plays guitar and is the lead vocalist. Other members of the band are; Gunnar Schulz, Jack Farrel, Daniel Vucko, and Tommy Bengert.

The band has had some notoriety with gigs close to home and most recently, Saturday March 8th they played as a warm-up band for the Aurora Winter Blues festival at King Richard's in Aurora. King Richard's was packed that night and the youthful band members played both cover songs and original music written by Sault.

The band members naturally fit into the stage area of the pub and started to play and despite their youth they were comfortable when the music got started, naturally folding into the rhythm of the songs. The crowd at the pub was both pleased and surprised with the bands efforts, giving them a roaring applause after every song.

?I want to stick with the band and see where it goes, I take my music seriously? said Sault and when asked how often he practices he said, ?Music is my main focus, I practice all the time.? When Sault was asked if he plans a career with music, he said ?I have other goals, it is a good way to get out and do stuff right now.?

Aside from the light-hearted attitude that Sault displays, he admits that a CD for Never Never is currently being mixed.

Young musicians are not out of the norm, as other well known bands that are etched in our musical memory started at the tender age like Never Never. For now, Never Never is enjoying their time of playing in front of audiences, learning and creating new music and perhaps we will be enjoying their music again soon.