

FOLK HAPPENINGS IN ONTARIO

Ontario is alive with many thriving centers of folk music. The coffee house today not only provides good Canadian entertainment for the public but also acts as an important meeting place for all of those who are interested in our folk music. To our readers, here is the first of a series of articles introducing you to Coffee Houses in Ontario. In your travels, drop in, meet some exciting people and enjoy some fine Canadian talent.

BITTER GROUNDS

Every Saturday night, and oft times on Friday night too, Queen's University students enjoy top Canadian talent in the warm atmosphere of Bitter Grounds. Located on campus and highly regarded by those in the coffee house circuit, Bitter Grounds acts as a springboard for many big name performers-to-be. Since the late sixties Bruce Cockburn, Coleen Peterson and Stringband have made their way with performances there.

It is a student run, non-profit organization, and the students involved offer their time on a volunteer basis. This enables the booking of a wide range of fine folk performers: Bobby McNeil, Friends of Fiddler's Green and Dave Broadstreet to name a few.

In addition to the star performers of the night, A Queen's student presents a guest set. The highly professional quality of talent on Queen's campus prompted the trial of a 'Student Night' which proved a great success - the audience listened to the moving original compositions of Barb Cook and Peter Stoicheff, tapped their toes to the fiddle tunes of Jeoff Somers and clapped their hands to Canadian traditional folk songs by Debra Meeks.

So, if you're ever in the Kingston area, come and visit. In the next semester you may hear the musical sounds of Doug McArthur, John Allan Cameron, Stan Rogers, Dave Essig, The Dixie Flyers or the Original Sloth Band. Irregardless of the performer of the night you'll most certainly feel welcome in the friendly atmosphere of Bitter Grounds.

Any information on coffee houses in Ontario would be most welcome. Please send it to:

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