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SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

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4 PM

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6 PM

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7:30 PM

STREETHEART

Tin Soldier, Under My Thumb, Look in Your Eyes, Snow White, What Kind of Love is This

9:30 PM



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DOORS OPEN AT 3 PM



ROCKIN' THE PARK



Streetheart happy to be back playing

If you grew up in Canada in the 1970s or 80s, you probably have some memories of Streetheart, whether it's a memory of seeing one of their concerts or hearing hits like *What Kind of Love is This* and their version of *Under my Thumb* on the radio. Streetheart is coming to Esterhazy August 31 to headline *Rockin' The Park*. Editor Kevin Weedmark spoke with Streetheart's Jeff Neill on August 12.

I know you lost Kenny Shields in 2017. Have some of the current band members been there from the beginning?

Ken "Spider" Sinnaeve and Daryl Gutheil are the original founding members of Streetheart. I joined the band in 1981. I replaced John Hanna after he got quite ill in 1980 and my first album with the band was Streetheart, the self-titled record.

What is it like playing together as band that long?

Well, we truly enjoy creating and playing music together. We're great friends and that friendship really, really helps. Losing Kenny was a pretty tough time for us. Kenny obviously was the voice of Streetheart since the very beginning. That was a very difficult time for us and we took quite a break after that. With somebody that close to you that is that dear of a friend, it is difficult to deal with.

Did you know you were going to continue with the band after Kenny died, or was there some question?

No we didn't think too much about it. It was a long time later when we started to discuss it. We had so many really wonderful notes and messages from all of the fans all across Canada expressing their condolences, but so many were saying please find a way not to stop, to keep the music going. We felt that one of the best ways to keep the memory of Kenny alive is to continue the legacy of this band in the best way that we can. Playing the songs at the highest level that we possibly can. We are very fortunate that our friend Paul McNair stepped up. We did a tribute for Kenny in August of 2017 at Shaw Park in Winnipeg and had Paul come sing. We had a number of guest singers come up who wanted to sing. It was the best way for them to pay their respects to Kenny, to come up and sing one of the Streetheart songs that basically are woven into the fabric of the tapestry of our fans' adult lives. We have fans that were basically young people graduating out of university and high school in their teens, twenties who are now 60 years old who have been listening to us all their adult lives. Paul stepped up in such a great way and he sang the songs with so much respect for the legacy of the band and he is a great friend of ours and he seemed like a great choice. We looked at a few other singers but really Paul understands the history of the band so well. He has been a fan of the band since he was a teenager. We were very fortunate to have someone like that who stepped up and did such a great job back then and he was the obvious choice for us going forward.

Are you starting to do some new material? We have talked about that. Darryl, Spider and I were always very on the forefront of creating the initial ideas of



songs for Streetheart. We always wrote as a collective—the four of us Darryl, Spider, myself and Kenny. Usually Darryl, Spider or myself would come up with a raw idea that we would complete. We've always enjoyed writing together. We've always had really good success writing together so we thought maybe we can continue to do that. We are going to look at that more after the summer. We spent the first half of this year re-establishing, finding out what the general feel was from the fans coming back. The fans have been so supportive of us coming back and playing again and playing all these songs that they all really love. We've tried to do everything we can with great respect for the legacy of all the memories of this band going forward and do it with a good measure of class and grace. I think we have been very successful and the fans have been wonderful.

They have been so welcoming of Paul, and I can't thank them enough for that because they've made what is a very difficult transition as easy as possible for us.

What is it like getting up there and playing some of those old songs like "Under My Thumb" and "What Kind of Love is This"? When you get up there and play for a crowd who grew up with that back in the 80's, what kind of reaction do you normally get from the crowd?

The reaction to the shows has been spectacular. Back in 1984 when the band broke up, we had no plan for 2019. Rock and roll was still very young at that point. If you could say it was born somewhere in the mid-50s, that made it less than 30 years old, and now it has had another 40 years to grow. We enjoy playing the songs. They are great songs. We put a lot of work into writing good songs and we so enjoy playing the music. I would say arguably hundreds of years from now, musical historians will look back on the '60s, '70s and '80s as the peak period of rock and pop songwriting. The climate was just right. For our fans, music is a way of life for them. I don't know whether it is the same way now. Our fans support us. They're patrons of what we do. They come to the shows. They continue to buy the music. They buy our merchandise. They know this is what we do for a living. They're our bosses in a way, our fans. As long as they come out and enjoy the music, we will be there to play it for them because we love playing these songs even if there is no audience. Having our friends and fans in front of us and playing songs for them is just a bonus.

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ROCKIN' THE PARK



Local band The Firm looking forward to Rockin' The Park

Local Langenburg-area band *The Firm* will be playing *Rockin' The Park* in Esterhazy on August 31. While headliners *Streetheart* have been playing together for decades, *The Firm* are a young up-and-coming band just at the beginning of their career. Kevin Weedmark spoke with Carter Vosper of *The Firm* on August 12:

How long have you guys been together?

About three years now we've been playing. We consist of four members. I'm Carter Vosper, my brother is Eric Vosper, and we have Riley Buchberger on drums and, Remi Berthelet on guitar.

How did you guys get together?

Me, Riley and Eric have been playing together for a couple of years and I joined football and met Remi. He joined the band after that and we have been playing together for a couple of years now.

How old were you when you started playing together?

Pretty young, four years ago was when the three of us started. I'm 18 now so about 14, 15 and 16.

What brought you guys together to play music?

We all share a love for music and we just love to do it. It all works out. We can all play different instruments and we can actually do it, so we might as well.

What kind of music do you play?

Rock and funk music mostly. We're writing an album right now and getting pretty close to being finished and releasing that.

All original songs?

Yes.

Who does the writing in the band?

All four of us can write music.

Do you work together or do each of you come up with your own songs?

Sometimes we work together and sometimes we write our own and get the other people to play the parts. We're getting close to finishing it.

What do you do at your live shows? Covers or some of your own songs?

Yeah we play a couple of originals but usually we are playing for five or six hours at a time and we don't have enough originals for that so we play lots of covers.

What is it like being a band?

It's actually getting better now that we are getting better at shows, but it's a lot of fun. We have been having a great summer so far playing lots of shows.

What kind of gigs did you play when you first started?

We started off in a talent show at our school and we did that every year. We played at the bar in town. Our drummer's parents owned it. That was one of our first gigs and we slowly made our way up for open little gigs until we opened for Trooper in Rocanville and got some big ones this summer.

Was that a break for you, opening for Trooper?

That was definitely a break for us. Ever since then we've been getting consistent gigs and cabarets this summer.

How did that end up happening, you guys opening up for Trooper?

Actually we were just playing at Carlton Trail Regional Park on Canada Day last year and Neil Leclair saw us playing. He was going to be in the band that was opening that



day but he saw us and asked if we wanted to do it instead.

What kind of crowds were there at some of those initial gigs when you played at the bar in Langenburg?

Not many, probably 20-30 people, and we just had our new record at the Moosomin fireworks—we played for 5,000 people. We are definitely getting bigger crowds.

Is it a bit of a buzz when you are playing for a large crowd?

It actually makes a huge difference for us playing in front of a big crowd. I think we definitely play better and try harder at least when there are lots of people in a crowd that are into it. It makes a huge difference. The people at Trooper were really paying attention to what we were playing. You can tell when the crowd is doing that and we play better I think.

Are you having fun with it?

Oh yeah loving it. Loving life right now.

When does your album drop?

We don't have an official release date but it should be in the next coming weeks.

Is it likely to be out by the time you're playing in Esterhazy?

We are hoping to have it out by then.

How would you describe your original songs?

Some of them are kind of rock and some are funk tunes as well. Some of them are more chilled out acoustic. That is mostly the genres we play.

Describe one of the songs on your new album?

One of the songs we just finished is called *October Snow*. Our guitarist Remi wrote that and it is just kind of our lives and what's going on around us. We are constantly being inspired by the things that we are doing and the shows that we are playing and everything—just typical teenager life.

Are you going to be able to keep the band together after some of the members go to university?

Yeah we're keeping the band together for sure. We've got some shows booked on weekends. Me and Remi are only going to university in Regina, so close enough to come home and play some stuff on weekends.

Have most of your shows been right around the local area?

Yeah it's kind of getting a bit further out now. We played in Minnedosa before the Moosomin Fireworks on Saturday.

How far do you hope to go with your music?

We will keep doing it as long as people keep enjoying the music and stay interested. We want to just keep doing it.

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ROCKIN' THE PARK



Rock Candy are making a name for themselves

Rock Candy, one of the four bands playing for Rockin' The Park in Esterhazy August 31, has quickly become a major name in Western Canada's music industry.

The band performs for a lot of cabarets, socials, business Christmas parties and corporate events.

From the first moment this popular party band takes the stage until their final note echoes through the room your guests will not be able to contain themselves—they'll be out on the dance floor all night long.

These experienced, professional party conductors have played many large corporate functions, huge events such as the World Curling Championships at "The Patch" and "Rockin' The Fields," the annual Rock Festival at Minnedosa.

Two lead vocalists, male and female, allow the band to cover great classics, rockers, 80's, country and Top 40 songs that draw a crowd to their feet.

Members of the band are:

Brooke "Cherry" Nickel

Brooke is a "little firecracker" with a huge voice. She is at ease with the latest pop song or can rock out "Barracuda" by Heart or "Heartbreaker" by Pat Benatar.

When is the last time you heard a female singer absolutely nail a Heart song? Get ready to be thrilled...

Michael Barrett

The other lead singer and the guitarist for Rock Candy. Michael can handle songs ranging from "Billie Jean" to rock classics from Meatloaf to an AC-DC tune.

Nicole Knezacek

Nicole Knezacek is the stunning keyboard player and backing vocalist for Rock Candy.

With her musical training and sunny demeanor she adds great music and a positive vibe to every show.

Niel and Irv

Niel and Irv are the drummer and bass player of Rock Candy. As a rhythm section they have delivered the beat that has pulled thousands of people all over the prairies up dancing, show after show, from festivals to cabarets and corporate events.

They play as one.



Rock Candy have quickly made a name for themselves as a Saskatchewan party band



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ROCKIN' THE PARK



Snake Oil plays with the idea 'is it real?'

Trying to absorb everything cover band Snake Oil is throwing at you can be a difficult task.

First off, each member of the five-piece group has their own stage name and back story.

For example, there's Due (played by Darren Moore); Due is said to hail from Muff, Ireland, (each character has a similarly interesting-sounding name or town of origin) and plays piano, bass and guitar in the band, except when he fronts it as one of the musicians he portrays, which include Paul Stanley of Kiss, Ozzy Osbourne, Joe Elliott of Def Leppard, David Lee Roth of Van Halen, among others. So it's not Moore as Ozzy, it's Moore as Due as Ozzy.

Three of the five members take turns fronting the band as various musicians, nipping on and off stage for two-song sets, using their brief breaks while the others are on stage to get into their next character.

"It just continuously moves, no dead air," Moore says.

Snake Oil takes great pride in the attention to detail that goes into their two-hour set of '80s rock classics.

The costuming and makeup as they change from musician to musician is precise and impressive; the songs themselves are exact replications of the album versions, including any sound or technical effects; and the front-men mimic the accents and mannerisms of the famous musicians to a tee, using old live concert footage as reference material.

"It is a theatrical experience; we imitate the characters, we portray them, we have interactivity between the characters, we make up what would happen if Ozzy ran into Alice Cooper on stage, y'know?" Moore says. "There's el-



ements of comedy... but the music side of it we take very seriously."

Each member of the band Snake Oil has a stage name and character they play on stage, but as that character

they also portray famous musicians such as Paul Stanley of Kiss, Ozzy Osbourne, Joe Elliott of Def Leppard and David Lee Roth of Van Halen.

The band name, too, plays with the idea of reality—Moore says they were inspired by the idea of a travelling salesman from the "old days" going from town to town peddling snake oil, pegged as a cure-all for anything. Customers would come from far and wide to see his pitch, but they wouldn't know until after they bought the oil if it was authentic.

"Whether it was real or whether it was not, it was up to you to decide... so Snake Oil is kind of tongue-in-cheek; is this real or is this not?" Moore says.

Snake Oil has played huge shows throughout the United States—including the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota and at the iconic Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa (famous for hosting the final performances of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper before their death in a plane crash in 1953).

They once opened for '70s Scottish rockers Nazareth in Winnipeg, an experience Moore says caused him some apprehension.

"Who wants to see a band doing cover tunes open for an original act?" he says. "But it was very, very well received because we brought the '80s alive, there's a sense of humour there. We're not taking ourselves too seriously, although the music we do (take seriously). And the people enjoyed it, it's a good show."

"There's a big market for what we're doing because it's entertaining."

ROCKIN' THE PARK

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