

Everyday experiences inspire Marin's latest

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Oh, the good ol' days of country music.

When Johnny Cash would make you walk the line, Elvis Presley would break your heart and Carl Perkins would sing about them blue suede shoes.

If one were to envision today's Cash, Presley or Perkins then Roger Marin brings it home.

His resume is nothing to shake a stick at as he has worked with the likes of Willie Nelson, Hayes Carll, Willie P. Bennett, Scott Nolan, Adam Carroll and Fred Eaglesmith.

This Thorold native puts himself up with the greats with his authentic country songs about his time on the road, and his experiences through life.

"I've been touring for a long time, for about 12 or 13 years, and I've met some truly amazing people," says singer/songwriter and guitarist Marin. "For the last eight years I've been touring on my own with my own band. We've been to Texas, to the Yukon, all over Canada and Europe."

The band consisting of Phil Bosley (bass/vocals), Mike Tuyp (lead guitar) and Matt Keighan (percussion/vocals) has recorded three albums during their eight years together.

Their latest is entitled *Silvertown*. "The title track is called *Silvertown*, and it's funny, I wrote it about *Silvertown* in the (Niagara) falls. That is what inspired that song. Other songs were inspired by touring. A lot of the songs are about when we're out there fixing our van on the side of the road, when we're on our way whether it's from Toronto to Ottawa; it's about what happens when we're out there. What inspires the music is what happens every day," he says.

Marin is a nominee for songwriter of the year for this year's Niagara Music Awards (NMAs), being held on June 15. "I'm pretty stoked. Before, I would never be able to get any gigs in St. Catharines or around here because I didn't play cover gigs. Over the last little while I've become so stoked that there's the NMAs, and there's a lot more things happening in the Niagara region for regional music. I'm really happy we have this here because there's such great talent."

The Roger Marin Band is holding a CD release show for the release of *Silvertown* tonight, Saturday, June 5, with special guest Serena Pryne and The Mandevilles at Grill on the Hill at 3350 Merrittville Highway in Thorold. "We're really excited, as a band, to play these songs for family and friends in the area. I think it's going to be a really energetic show," he says.

Following the release of the new album, a busy touring schedule around Canada and the U.S. awaits them for the next few months.

Catch The Roger Marin Band at Grill on the Hill tonight. The show begins at 10 p.m. and admission is \$5. For further information on the band, visit rogermarin.com.

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