

# This week's Muskoka Mosaic: Introducing Shane Connon

By Paula Boon

Shane Connon loves making music. "Being a rock star would be great, but it's a long shot," says the 17-year-old. "My goal is just to be able to play music all the time and live off that."

He's well on his way. For the past two summers, Connon has played several gigs a week at places like the Pub on the Docks and East Side Mario's, most with his father Sean.

Connon has experience in larger venues, too: he has appeared in the last four Northern Blues Review events in area theatres and performed with Huntsville High School's Song Project. However, he prefers intimate settings where he can see the audience.

When asked if he gets nervous, Connon replies he did before he spent the summer of 2008 busking all day, every day. "That got the singing and guitar-playing nerves out," he says.

Born in Brampton, Connon moved at age three to the Dwight area, where he still lives with his parents and younger brother Luke.

Connon grew up watching and hearing his father play various instruments, and when he was in Grade 7 he decided to try his hand at the guitar. Soon he and some friends formed a band, with a repertoire that consisted mainly of classic rock. Connon sang and played guitar. "Not very well, though," he says with a grin. "It was

pretty brutal."

It couldn't have been too bad, because when Connon and his bandmates were in Grade 8 they were invited to play at a high school Caf Jam. "It was the first time we had performed in public. That was definitely the most nervous I've been," he says.

Near the end of Grade 9, Connon started playing the drums and decided to sign up for the school's music program to learn more. For the next two years he played "tons of drums" in various bands and in 2008 won the Students' Choice Award, which recognizes outstanding effort and dedication to the music program. Connon says he still enjoys drumming with different groups and in a variety of musical styles.

More recently, though, Connon has returned to guitar playing, mainly because it goes along with song-writing. "I always had ideas for songs," he says. "Then one day a couple of years ago I wrote down some lyrics and figured out a melody with the band."

Now he does the opposite: "I'll be fiddling around with the guitar and come up with something cool. Usually I make up the melody first. I get the verses and chorus worked out and then write the lyrics," says Connon.

Connon draws inspiration for his songs from personal experience and from listening to the music of others. "I buy way too much music," he says. "And I'm always working on new songs."

Last spring, he recorded an original song called *Take Me Home*, which explores feelings of confusion and loneliness. "It's about being lost and looking for something to happen," he says.

*Take Me Home* has been selected to be part of Moose Trax 5, a compilation recording of talent from northern Ontario. It will also air on Moose FM stations across the province. "That's exciting," says Connon. "When I hear it on the radio that'll be really cool."

When not at work as a labourer for a local electrician, Connon spends most of his time playing music. "I hang out with my friends, too," he says, "but when I got into music, my best friends became people who also played."

Connon graduated from Huntsville High School in June, and he's not sure what the future holds. For the next year, he will work during the day and keep playing gigs while looking into different post-secondary music programs.

One way or another, Connon feels ready to venture out into the world with his music.

"Huntsville's good place with lots of live music, a good place to grow up, but I'm ready for a change," he says. "We'll see. As long as I'm playing music, I'll be happy. That's all I want to do, really."

Thanks to Laura MacLean for suggesting that Shane Connon be profiled. To explore the complete collection of Muskoka Mosaic profiles, go to [www.thelifecollector.com](http://www.thelifecollector.com)



GROOVIN': Shane Connon strums his guitar and sings on the patio at East Side Mario's in August. The 17-year-old's goal is to be able to make a living from playing music.

## ADOPT-A-PET

**HARRIET** is a sweet girl looking for a home where she can run and play. Can you give her a good home? Approximately 2 years old, Beagle cross.



**Celebrating the 10th Annual Paws for Paws**



**Sunday, October 4, 2009**  
Arrowhead Provincial Park  
between 9 a.m. & 2 p.m.  
Pledge forms are available at  
Pet Valu and the Shelter

The **Scotiabank** is having a used book sale, another way that you can help to support the abandoned animals in our community!



**2010 Calendars** are now on sale featuring former shelter animals that got their second chance for a great life!  
**\$15 each** available at the Shelter

*To help you with the costs of bringing home your adopted Shelter pet, Pet Valu offers 10% off of your first purchase of supplies for your four-legged friend, some conditions may apply.*

Adoption applications are available at the Shelter and on our website:

[www.animals-huntsville.on.ca](http://www.animals-huntsville.on.ca)



**Animal Shelter For Huntsville**

19 Bickley Country Drive, Huntsville, ON P1H 1Y4

Phone: 789-9709

E-mail: [pets@vianet.on.ca](mailto:pets@vianet.on.ca)

Open 7 days a week • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD



1012 Dwight Beach Road, RR#1

Dwight, Ontario P0A 1H0

phone: 705-635-2272 fax: 705-635-2132

Hours of operation: Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



**Join Other Volunteers at Community Action Planning Day!**

Lake of Bays residents have created a Strategic Plan designed to achieve their vision for the future. Now your help is needed to make it happen. Pick the strategy that is most important to you and join other volunteers for a day of action planning. Mark **Friday, October 16** on your calendar. The planning session will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Dwight Community Centre. Please visit [www.lakeofbays.on.ca](http://www.lakeofbays.on.ca) for additional details closer to this date. (Lunch and refreshments will be provided.)

The Strategic Plan is on the Township website along with a questionnaire where you can still add your insights and concrete advice. The Township needs to ensure that the new strategies truly reflect the whole community's sense of direction prior to the Council meeting scheduled on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Please contact Stefan at 705-635-2272 to find out more.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS**  
Request applications for two OPERATOR "A" Part-Time Positions

#### Background:

The Township of Lake of Bays is seeking a strongly motivated, well-organized individual to undertake various public works functions. Requirements of the position include a positive attitude, ability to quickly adapt to change and the ability to work independently, as well as in a team environment.

#### Responsibilities:

- To operate and maintain light/heavy equipment while performing various public works activities.
- To comply with applicable legislative requirements.
- To perform other tasks or responsibilities which may be assigned.

#### Qualifications:

- Education is required at the level of Grade 12 or equivalent.
- Proven work experience in public works operations.
- Thorough knowledge in proper use and maintenance of equipment.
- Class "DZ" licence is required, "AZ" licence is preferred.

**Applicants are invited to submit a resume outlining appropriate education and experience, together with references, by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 2nd, 2009 to:**

**Township of Lake of Bays**

**Attention: Lauri Romanko, Public Works Supervisor - Roads**

**1012 Dwight Beach Rd. Dwight On P0A 1H0**

**Fax: (705) 635-9346 Or**

**E-mail: [roads2@lakeofbays.on.ca](mailto:roads2@lakeofbays.on.ca)**

*We thank all applicants who apply, but only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Selected candidates will be required to participate in a variety of testing. Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the purpose of job selection.*

### Reminder Notice

2nd Installment for 2009 Final Lake of Bays taxes due September 26, 2009



Payment methods available:

- Telephone/Internet Bill Payment Service (be sure to include your roll number)
- Pre-Authorized Payment Plan
- Mortgage Companies
- Post-Dated Cheques
- By Mail
- In person at cashier's counter at Municipal Office
- Remit at most major banks

Visit us at [www.lakeofbays.on.ca](http://www.lakeofbays.on.ca)

**SUBARU**  
**IRONMAN**  
**70.3** MUSKOKA  
CANADA

*Congratulations  
& Thank You*

Thank you to all Subaru Ironman 70.3 Muskoka supporters, Iron crew and athletes! Without all the good people of Huntsville, Lake of Bays, Dorset, Dwight and Baysville this race would not be possible. Every gesture, every cheer, every offer of support goes an incredibly long way to help each and every athlete realize their dream.

We have received many letters from athletes around the world, and we can't find one that doesn't mention our local volunteers. It's your support that carries them to the finish line. We believe this e-mail from an accomplished athlete sums it all up...

Dear Organizers,

I used to be a professional ultra-endurance triathlete many years ago. I was lucky enough to race in more than 20 countries and experienced some great races. On 13th September, 2009, I was lucky enough to race the Subaru Muskoka Ironman 70.3. Your organization was absolute perfection. It was truly a wonderful event, and I feel honoured to have been a part of it.

Congratulations to all the volunteers and residents who were part of the race organization. You delivered what is surely one of the very best triathlons on the planet. Roll on Muskoka 2010 - I'll see you there.

Eric Seedhouse

Ultraman Champion 1996, Decatriathlon Champion 1995, World Endurance Triathlon Champion 1995/96, World Double Ironman Champion 1995, World Ultraman Championship silver medalist 1997/98, European Ultraman Champion 1998

Looking forward to 2010!

**Janet and Mitch Fraser,  
Lisa Bentely, Dave Cracknell**