

Local band tours world, attempts to break record

CATHY MCNALLY
THIS WEEK

This June, members of the local band The Last Supper will hop on a plane on a journey that will take them around the world for the next three years.

The Smiths Falls based group will set out on a mission to set a world record for a musical act performing in 100 countries. The rock and roll crew will embark on this journey for the next three years, travelling for a quarter of each year, in one-month increments.

"We're going to every country you've ever heard of," said lead singer Dan Shwetz, with a laugh.

Shwetz is a Smiths Falls native and the group is currently based in town. He, along with guitarist Peter Walker and manager David Baines, have been together since 1994 while attending school at the University of Western Ontario in London.

They have since travelled across the world, and at one point as a band have lived in California, Toronto and London. This summer's launch will bring the band to some places they haven't ever visited.

The crew will set out on the first portion of their goal, travelling to England, Ireland, Holland, Romania, Estonia, Turkey, Egypt, South Africa, Denmark, Senegal, the United States and Canada.

They will perform in different venues and already they're booked for three of the 10 most popular festivals within Europe.

Since deciding to make it happen Shwetz said plans

for this trip have given them an extra kick to their musical ambitions.

"We've had ups and downs in terms of success, but now we're picking up a lot of momentum," he explained, adding that his wife came up with the idea for the world record attempt. "We've been in this game for 10 years and this is our second round. You live once, let's do it today."

MAKING IT A REALITY THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS

Not only is The Last Supper heading out on the road for a 33-month tour, they will be documenting their experiences in a reality television show.

"We're going to every country you've ever heard of." lead singer Dan Shwetz

The band members hope to air a reality television show titled Band Without Borders and they've already shot some segments.

The episodes will portray life of the band, highlighting the drama, comedy and life on the road as they play to diverse crowds at some of the top venues and music festivals around the globe.

"This show will outline the logistics of organizing, travelling and performing as a band," explained Shwetz, adding that the show will be a mixture of the two television series The Amazing Race and Big Brother.

The show will consist of 13 one-hour episodes each season, with plans for three seasons, each to be distributed internationally.

While on tour the band will promote a carbon conscious lifestyle, which may range from camping to trav-

elling on an eco-friendly tour bus.

"We're not being preachy, but this is a perfect opportunity to set a good example," said Walker.

He added that the band hopes to get into sponsorship opportunities with environmentally conscious companies – a concept that is popular in Europe.

"It's a mainstream part of their culture," he said.

The Last Supper will make a special performance at The Lee Tavern tonight (Friday, Feb. 29). To learn more about their journey, check out their website at www.lastsupper.ca.

Lead singer Dan Shwetz and guitarist Peter Walker of The Last Supper will begin a tour this summer with the hopes to break a world record. The Smiths Falls based group plans to perform in 100 countries over a three-year period.



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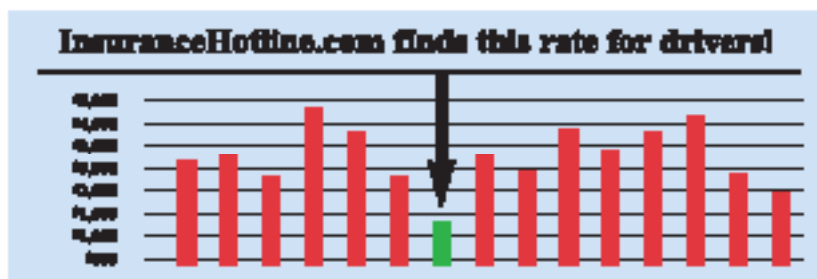
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