



# FOR RIVER CITY JUNCTION, It Just Feels Right

By Jan Murray

**R**iver City Junction has been around for close to 20 years. This latest incarnation of River City Junction, Jason Fryer (vocals/guitar) and Caroline Addison (drummer), has been together about 7 years. Tom Joannis (Bass) joined in about 10 years ago.

"Caroline and I have known each other since we were teenagers. We would hang out at the mall together and I would play guitar." Jason began.

"Music is definitely what brought us together." Caroline added. "He would play for me all the time and I happened to sing for him one afternoon. I sang him a verse of this one song and he's like, 'you should come sing back up in my band'" but Caroline confessed, "no way. I sing in the shower."

Years went by before that fateful day, when Jason and Caroline's paths would cross once more. This time when Jason asked her to sing for him, she said yes. "I swear that didn't come from me!" She laughed.

Their first band together was Radical Usurper.

Jason adds, "We didn't keep that name long, changed it to Sonic Prophecy and actually had Gerry Mercer from April Wine playing with us for 4 years."

Then they took a break for a bit, had children and music took somewhat of a back seat for awhile.

Then when Tom joined the band they switched gears. They were asked to do a blues gig and when they finished, they had

this unbelievable feeling of contentment. It was a completely different aura then when they played hard rock, and it felt, 'right.'

Jason added, "Tom came in and has become part of the core. Tom dug in and it became just us three and we realized it's just us 3... just do it."

Tom adds, "Early on I learned to just not question what happens, just go with it. If I got laid off I'd just look for another job. So one night I crashed on their couch and I just never stopped crashing on their couch."

Although the band had seen a couple different drummers over the years, with Caroline on drums, after just 2 weeks, it just 'fit' and they knew this was what they were supposed to be doing.

Caroline smiled, "Wasn't sure how long I'd be doing it as I wasn't sure I would be any good at it but now I wouldn't even consider not doing it. It's my drum kit!"

Content to be where they are, Jason adds, "our whole lives; every waking moment is dedicated to music."

They simply love to play. It really is all about the music and the people to them. Playing smaller venues means that the connection is often what makes the night.

Jason explains, "The Keystorm Pub in Brockville is really diverse. You will find doctors, lawyers, nurses, everybody. All the places that we play are very community oriented."

Over the winter months RCJ finds themselves on stage about 3x per week, but through the summer it is not unusual to be front and centre every single day. With an average of 200 shows per year, it's not surprising that their summer is already fully booked.

To spread the joy, one must feel the joy. When listening to RCJ, the deep satisfaction and elation at sharing their love of music with those around them is evident.

Tom claims, "Getting paid to do what we do is pretty awesome. We can't take it for granted."

"I always felt that if I could have my own house, pay all my own bills and play my music that I would be totally happy with that. I would love to keep going and get bigger, but if this is as good as it gets, I'm gonna die a happy man" Jason summed it up in a nutshell.

Now with owning their recording studio, Tone King Records, we are surely to see much more of RCJ. **LH**