



*Pat Johnson poses with his guitar, surrounded by his collection of instruments in his recording studio in Charleston village near Athens.*

# PAT JOHNSON

## Athens Musician Passionate about his Music and Craft

By Sally Smid

It is more than evident that Pat Johnson is passionate about his music. After years of dedicated effort, his newest album was launched at O'Heaphy's Irish Pub recently in Prescott and at Brockville's Spitfire Grill in late February. He was very thankful that it was well received and that there was a packed house for both events. Mary Rae Knapp was in attendance and noted how the intimate venue allowed the attentive audience to "hear every word and enjoy Pat's superb instrumentation!" The theme of many of his songs involved the value of music and arts in general. This was Pat's 4th album and it is entitled "Stumps". It proves to be

an entertaining and innovative collection of selections that combine a unique commentary about contemporary culture. His title song is actually a rant about fast food, bankers, culture and human nature.

Pat's observations on behaviour is the connecting theme for the wide variety of moods and styles included. His music has been influenced in many ways by artists such as Bruce Cockburn, Randy Newman, and Stephen Stills. Though his album is thought provoking in many ways, it is also fun and amusing. It includes a lot of rhyming, playful lyrics from ranting blues about consumerism and over consumption, to the rollicking "Chipmunk

Rag" as his skilled fingering truly captures the spirit of the little mischievous creatures that visit his yard.

Outstanding instrumentals are also included which feature, Pat's proficiency in guitar, electric bass, mandolin, and even jaw harp. He humbly declares that he is not naturally talented and needs to work at his music, but it is clear that his perseverance and dedication is bringing success in many ways.

Pat grew up on a farm near Maynard. His country roots are reflected in his music as is his degree in environmental studies. He contributes much of his success to his teacher and mentor Richard Crottie of Mr. C's Music, where his latest CD can be purchased. He currently lives in the Village of Charleston, (near Athens, On) which is also the site of his recording studio, where he has produced music for a variety of area musicians. He is known by many as a music teacher in numerous capacities and is always ready to serve the community, especially in the area of furthering the status of the arts. He is a member of the Joshua Bates Performing Arts Committee, as well as the local Arts Council in Athens, On.

"Pat works 14 hours a day," notes his partner and noted potter Krista Cameron, who is very supportive of his musical career. He admits that all of this has limited the time he would like to spend with his first love - producing music and writing songs. His style really defies a label in many ways and is a mix of folk, blues, rock and more. Pat has built a real following and has played up to 80 gigs a year since he began in the late 1990's. He released his debut CD in 2003, "Songs from the Town Boredom Built" and then "Pitchin' Day." He also did an album with the trio Hard Pushin. Pappa. He helped produce Nellie Holmes' album "Dancing in the Kitchen."

They can all be purchased online via iTunes, Google Play, Amazon and all the common online music retailers, and can be streamed from Spotify and other streaming services.

Pat is part of the National Guitar Workshop in Connecticut, as well as WorkshopLive.com. He has also published a guitar instruction book. You can contact Pat and learn more by going to his website at [www.patjohnson.ca](http://www.patjohnson.ca) or visiting his face book page.

Have you ever wanted to learn Guitar, Bass, Mandolin or Ukulele? **LH**