

History sung to life by group with Langley roots

Lower Mainland group, Tiller's Folley, is hosting a CD launch event to introduce the trio's new double album.

Ronda Payne / Langley Advance
March 25, 2015 02:26 PM



What better way to share B.C. and Canadian history than through song? And to experience that music live, in an intimate setting is even better.

Those who enjoy something of a Celtic vibe will love the CD launch party of Tiller's Folley on Friday at 7 p.m. at Blue Frog Studios, 1328 Johnston Rd. in White Rock.

The three person band has been at it for almost two decades according to Bruce Coughlan, songwriter, vocals, and guitar for the group.

"The band has evolved over 18 years," Coughlan said.

Coughlan has stomped around Langley more than a time or two despite the fact that he now calls Maple Ridge home.

"At times, I've lived in Langley," he said. "I moved to Langley in 1974 and I attended Brookwood in the first year it opened. I move to Aldergrove in about 1980."

He considers the whole Lower Mainland home, as do the other two band members, Laurence Knight (bass, vocals), and Nolan Murray (fiddle, mandolin, mandocaster).

Though Murray hails originally from the United States, he has long ties to the true north strong and free.

"Nolan's only been with us for 14 years," Coughlan joked.

Describing what they play as acoustic roots, Coughlan says the new album, the band's ninth is a double CD collection called *Stirring Up Ghosts-Volumes 1 and 2* and includes 24 songs, all historically based in the Pacific Northwest. Some of these songs were previously released in 2008 as *Stirring Up*

Ghosts to celebrate both B.C.'s 150th anniversary and the Simon Fraser Bi-Centennial. That original CD quickly sold out.

"I've got a passion for B.C. history," Coughlan said.

He explains the new album includes those original songs, completely digitally remastered along with the new pieces. The CD project was funded on Kickstarter.

"It's probably the largest collection of historical-based Canadiana [music] established by a single author," noted Coughlan.

It's that love of history that keeps Coughlan and fellow Tiller's Folley band-mates doing what they do.

"Society has gathered around music and storytellers for eons," Coughlan said. "Sometimes we forget where we came from. These [songs] are pointers towards our past to say look what we've done in 200 years."

These three modern storytellers bring a richness of history to their listeners through their songs of triumph, adventure, heroes, and villains all from Western Canada's colourful past.

A few of the songs relate to specific aspects of Langley, like the song *Voyageur* which covers the fur traders.

"Steamboatin' Jamiesons is about a family that steamboated on the Fraser," Coughlan said. "They all died in steamboat accidents."

Coughlan and the band are pleased to be hosting their launch at the Blue Frog, which is also a fully-functional recording studio.

"It only holds about 80 people," Coughlan said of the venue. "That's the special thing about the Blue Frog. You can see what they're [performers are] doing with their fingers."

Tickets for the event are \$37.50 and are available through www.bluefrogstudios.ca, 604-542-3055.

Learn more about Tiller's Folley and *Stirring Up Ghosts-Volumes 1 and 2* at www.tillersfolley.com.

- See more at: <http://www.langleyadvance.com/entertainment/arts-culture/history-sung-to-life-by-group-with-langley-roots-1.1804392#sthash.cG9Sr3u9.dpuf>