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One Bad Son fan of performing in Saskatchewan

BY JOE COUTURE, FOR THE LEADER-POST | MAY 29, 2013

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One Bad Son, a rock band from Saskatoon, is playing The Exchange on Friday from 7 p.m.

REGINA — One Bad Son will “take any excuse we can to come back to Saskatchewan,” says the Canadian rock band’s drummer, Kurt Dahl.

“It’s always great, coming back to the prairies,” Dahl said. “It’s where we’re from. It’s where we belong. And we’ve got a great following there.”

The band, which was formed in 2004 in Saskatoon, includes Dahl, as well as Shane Volk (vocals), Adam Hicks (guitars) and Adam Grant (bass).

At a “crossroads in our career” in 2010, the group moved to Vancouver to pursue opportunities in the music industry, Dahl noted.

“For us, it was either go to Vancouver or go to Toronto. We decided to go west. And it was tough. The first couple of years out there, it was

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like starting again from the bottom and fighting for every fan we could get. The first couple of years were tough. It was definitely a time when I'm sure we were all questioning if this was the right thing, the right decision," Dahl explained.

"But now, we've released the new album, we've kind of earned that fan base out west and it's been perfect. Things are really starting to blow up. But anytime we come back to the prairies, it's an absolute treat. Regina, Saskatoon, we always play to packed houses and there's nothing better than coming back to your homeland and playing to faces that you've been seeing for like the last six, seven, eight years."

Since the release of its self-titled album in September, the group has been doing a lot of touring, Dahl said, noting that two singles — Scarecrows and It Ain't Right — have been getting rock radio support. In January, the band toured across Canada opening for Buckcherry. And the group also played a show at The Exchange for JUNOfest earlier this year.

Live shows are important for the band, which plays "all real, live rock and roll," Dahl said.

"Our biggest idols are like Led Zeppelin, The Who, Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, that kind of thing — bands that each have their own truly original sound and play from their hearts," Dahl remarked. "No one's playing to backing tracks. It's all just live, raw, real rock and roll and one of the common things we get told on the road is, 'Man, I

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haven't seen a rock and roll band like you guys in years,' and that's like the best comment in the world."

One Bad Son knows it will build its following "one fan at a time, playing shows," Dahl said. "And that's what we're going to do.

"We're going to tour and tour and tour until we're the biggest band in this country. And until then, we're not going to be happy," he said.

"People coming out are believers in rock and roll, and it's kind of an encouraging thing to see across the country."

One Bad Son plays The Exchange on Friday along with I Automatic, Val Halla and The Snake Oil Salesmen. A portion of the funds raised at the show will go toward the 2013 Don McArthur Scholarship for Education at the White Bear Education Complex.

Tickets are available at Off-Axis, Long and McQuade, Vintage Vinyl and the Cultural Exchange building during daytime business hours or by calling 306-540-7301. Tickets are \$25 in advance, or \$30 at the door.

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