

Rose City Roots new season off to a great start
By Brett Browne, Camrose Booster, Sept. 15, 2009: 15.

In just three years the Rose City Roots Music Society established a solid fan base in the Camrose area, while developing an enviable reputation with many of the bands currently touring Canada.

The Society opened its 2009-2010 season with a sold-out show at Scalliwag's Pub and Rum Bar on September 12 featuring Winnipeg Band Dusty Roads who planned their entire western Canada tour around their Camrose performance.

Rose City Roots expects another sell-out this Saturday, October 3, when Canadian music icon Garnet Rogers takes to the stage at Scalliwag's.

"We have a pretty loyal following and it has been growing as we go along," says Society president Cindy Gerling, who says with all the recent success the society has had they sometime wish they had a large venue, especially for performers like Rogers.

Still, Gerling believes part of the attraction for local patrons is the intimate atmosphere that Scalliwag's offers. She says it is an inexpensive evening out, where you can enjoy great live music in a positive, relaxing setting.

"If you love live music, why wouldn't you do it?" she asks.

The performers also seem to appreciate the Rose City Roots experience. Gerling says they have had plenty of positive feedback from previous performers – some who are anxious for a return engagement.

"We treat them well. We want them to have a good time while they are here," explains Gerling.

This year, as in previous seasons, the Rose City Roots Music Society has put together a pretty eclectic mix of musical stylings. Following Garnett Rogers on October 3, are the indie sounds of Po' Girl on October 30. Alt country group The Wheat Pool returns to Camrose on November 21 and, in December, Scott Cook and The Longweekend will get the audience grooving with a mixture of reggae, roots, and hip-hop on December 5. The first performance of the new year will feature the rockin' blues group Bluesmyth on January 30, while the Deep Dark Wood will explore more of the folk side of rock when they perform February 12. Multiple Juno award winning singer-songwriter Stephen Fearing should be a sure sell-out March 6, while Victoria's The Gruff will show why they were named Artist of the Year at the Vancouver Island Music Awards. The Rose City Roots Music season will wrap up the season with rockers Lions in the Street on May 15.

Gerling says that the variety of musical styles not only attracts a variety of fans to Rose City Roots events, it also allows regulars to broaden their musical horizons.

"People who love live music will come out, but everyone has their favourites."

Gerling says like many local arts groups Rose City Roots is anxiously awaiting the completion of the Bailey Theatre, which they think will be an ideal venue, especially for some of the higher profile acts on the schedule. However, she doesn't expect the group will stray too far away the model that has made it successful so far.

"The bigger names will need a bigger venue, but we'll always need a smaller space like Scalliwag's to host our regular Saturday nights," she explains.

For more information on the Rose City Roots Music Society visit their web-site at: www.rosecityroots.ca Tickets for Rose City Roots Music Society performances are available at the door or at Cobblers and Craftsman.