

Canadian Rock Veterans 54°40 to Play The Barn

By Ryan O'Connor

The Island's long suffering 54°40 fans can breathe a collective sigh of relief. After a four year absence, these veterans of the Canadian rock scene are making their way back for a visit to the UPEI Barn.

"It's our second visit to Charlottetown," said Neil Osborne, lead singer of the Vancouver-based group. "The last time we were there the new [Confederation] bridge was just about done."

After such a lengthy

their ninth album, Osborne explained that, "we came up with the title to describe our approach of using technology, both old and new."

The creation of this album was quite experimental for the group, a move largely attributed to the band's ownership of their own studio. This ownership allows the band to move away from an exhaustive manner of recording to one more relaxed in nature.

"By recording at our own studio, it allows us to jump into

We haven't really reached a successful peak where we've sold millions of records and made lots of money.

absence, the group is evidently excited about returning to the province. "We don't get out to the Maritimes much, especially PEI, so that's going to be a highlight [of the upcoming tour] for us." With a laugh he added "although I wish it was spring or summer!"

54°40's tour, which kicked off in Kingston, Ontario on January 17, is in promotion of their most recent album, *Casual Viewin*. In regards to naming this,

[recording] the song at any point, rather than the normal way [of recording] which is to rehearse the material to death, book your studio and producer, and play what you've rehearsed to death, keep your best performances, and that's your record," said Osborne.

With worries about costs associated with studio time and producers out of the way, members of the group produced the album, 54°40's recording process was much more creative than the situation most bands face. "We did what a DJ would do. We just experimented with any section of the song, and put it together in various ways after the fact. Whether it would start with the drumbeat or vocals, quite often we'd strip a song down and rebuild it," Osborne said.

This new, more at ease style of recording is entirely new



The Editor



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