

Arts

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Everyone deserves a home

Musicians help put a roof overhead with Habitat for Humanity Vernon benefit

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When he isn't riding the range, or performing his music at barn dances around B.C., Rob Dinwoodie can be found at home sitting by the fire, penning a song or two.

Playing the guitar around the heat of the hearth with a hot drink nearby is one those comforts Dinwoodie says he really appreciates.

The local cowboy artist, singer-songwriter and range manager believes that everyone deserves a roof over their heads, and has even written a song about it he will soon share with audiences.

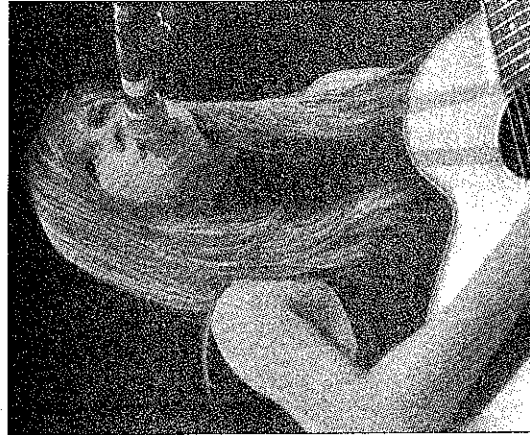
"The song is how I may not have great riches, but I am rich enough to give. I can't buy a house, but I can support the people who build them for those can't afford a roof over their heads," said Dinwoodie.

On Nov. 6, Dinwoodie joins fellow musicians, Ryan Donn of Kelowna and Vernon's Raquel Warchol, in playing the benefit concert, *Songs from the Heart*, at the Vernon Performing Arts Centre.

Proceeds from the concert will go towards Habitat for Humanity Vernon's current campaign, *Under one Roof*, to build an affordable housing complex on 25th Avenue in Vernon.

The project is also being supported by the Vernon and District Community Land Trust and Kindale Developmental Association.)

"I like what Habitat for Humanity stands for. They are a faith-based organization, but

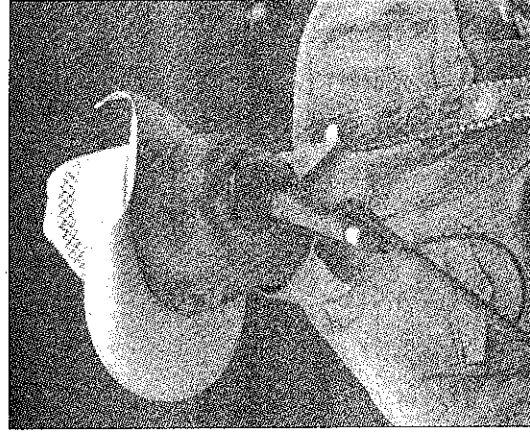


Raquel Warchol, Rob Dinwoodie and Ryan Donn come together for a concert to benefit Habitat for Humanity Vernon on Nov. 6.

they help people regardless of their belief systems. Their mandate is to end the housing poverty in the world," said Dinwoodie. "We're doing this as a gift to habitat and hope to raise enough money to raise one on of these homes and the money is going directly to Habitat for Humanity Vernon."

Dinwoodie will be accompanied by his band, multi-instrumentalist Dixon Zalit, bassist Rick Adams, drummer Rick Larson as well as his wife, singer Jocelyn Dinwoodie, at the event, and says he is happy to share the stage with his younger counterparts, Donn and Warchol.

"All three of us are original songwriters in three different genres. Raquel is more rock/pop, while Ryan is folksy-roots and I am cowboy/western swing," he said.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Raquel Warchol, Rob Dinwoodie and Ryan Donn come together for a concert to benefit Habitat for Humanity Vernon at the Performing Arts Centre

Donn has seen his career soar since he moved to Kelowna in his late teens. Now a father of two, Donn has also helped raise the profile of his music by doing most of the marketing himself.

Four singles from his last CD, 2007's *This Life*, were picked up by radio station across Canada, and his songs have been used as anthems by non-profit groups around the province. He also won Best Folk Artist at last year's inaugural B.C. Interior Music Awards (BCIMAs).

Warchol has been writing her own music since she was 11, and at 12 took home Best New Artist at the Scorpion Awards (predecessor to the Okanagan Music Awards, which are now the BCIMAs.)

At that time, she signed a three-year con-

tact in Los Angeles to be part of a singing group out of London, England.

Now 16, Warchol is a seasoned performer, appearing on live TV in Beijing, China, and opening for the likes of Aaron Pritchett, Foreigner, and touring with Stedman Graham (Oprah Winfrey's life partner.)

She has been invited to perform twice at the Merritt Mountain Music Festival, and has just completed two new recordings with legendary R&B vocalist/producer Al B Sure, and Grammy-nominated producer/writer Terence Dudley.

Songs from the Heart, emceed by Lori Hancock of Kiss FM, starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students at the Ticket Seller, 250-549-7469 or online at www.ticketsetter.ca.