

# What's Ianspotting? Good Question

## Reggae-rock band celebrates release of first album

By Greg Burliuk  
Whig-Standard Staff Writer

Somewhere out there is a guy named Ian who probably doesn't know he inspired the naming of the latest of Kingston's sterling bands.

Ianspotting is the brainchild of Shaun Weima, who also played in the popular local bands Reno's Hitmen and Mystic Caravan.

Ianspotting is celebrating the release of its debut CD *Good Question* with a party Friday at the Elixir.

"When I first started recording about eight years ago, it was in a room where the previous guy had rearranged the letters from the film *Trainspotting* to make it into Ianspotting and put it on the door," Weima says, noting the tenant's name was Ian.

"I liked the look of that name and have used it ever since, so it was a natural when it came to naming the band."

*Good Question* is heavily infused with reggae, one of Weima's musical loves.

"It just arrived one day, my love of it," he says.

"I love the sound of it and the groove of it."

And no, he isn't trying to imitate Kingston-born band Bedouin Soundclash, who've had international success with their reggae songs.

"They used to open for us when I was in Mystic Caravan," he says.

"Some of these songs were written before they were even a band."

Weima's love of reggae was kept under wraps in Mystic Caravan. When the broke up, he rejoined the band he'd been in before that, Reno's Hitmen.

When that group started to lose members, its bass player, Paul Butler, suggested Weima try the reggae stuff.

Weima recruited Butler, his younger brother, Andrew Weima, on guitar, and fellow Kingston School of Music teacher Rob Radford on drums.

That was a year and a half ago and judging from *Good Question*, the band sounds like it's been playing together for a long time. Joining them on the recording are 10 other musicians, including such local stalwarts as Spencer Evans, Bunny



Ianspotting – Shaun Weima (from left), Paul Butler, Andrew Weima and Rob Radford – is holding a CD release party on Friday to celebrate the release of their debut album, *Good Question*. The band is also selling a USB flash drive that has the album, demos and the cover artwork. "It's a little innovative," Shaun Weima says.

Photo by Cameron Tomsett

### IANSPOTTING

**Who:** Local reggae rockers Ianspotting – brothers Shaun and Andrew Weima, Paul Butler and Rob Radford – are having a party to celebrate their new CD, *Good Question*.

**When:** Friday, July 18, 9 p.m.

**Where:** Elixir Nightclub, 14 Garrett St.

**Tickets:** \$15 with a CD; and \$8 without one. The collector's edition USB flash drive is available for \$20 at the show and will also be available for \$25 from the band's website. After the CD release party, the disc will be available at Indigo, 259 Princess St., CD Exchange, 337 Princess St., Chumleighs, 346 and 2559 Princess St. and online. Visit [ianspotting.com](http://ianspotting.com) for details.

**More:** Ianspotting is touring this fall, playing Ontario colleges and universities.

store three years ago.

"I was going to give my boss the song rather than the letter," says Weima, who is now much happier teaching at the music school.

*I Know What You're Coming For* is a kind of companion song to *Resignation Letter*; it criticizes big business.

"It's an angry angst song about how corporations treat people," he says. "All they see is the bottom line."

*Sorry Bob* is a reference to Weima's reggae idol, Bob Marley.

"It's about a dream I had about trying to find him," Weima says.

"In it, I want to apologize for being so close to this riff of his that I had to use it in a song."

One of his favourite songs on the CD is called *Outta The Way*.

"It was written in the last year, just before we started recording the album," Weima says.

"It was the final piece of the puzzle. The song is catchy and was easy to write. It worked out well and flowed well.

"That doesn't always happen.

There's a song I've been working on for a year and there are certain parts that I still am not happy with."

With their CD release, Ianspotting is offering something that no other Kingston band has had to date. It's a USB flash drive that can be plugged into your computer.

"It's a collector's edition," Weima says.

"It's got the cover, old demos, videos and the album itself. It's a little innovative, a way to keep us unique. Groups like Barenaked Ladies and Tokyo Police Club have done it, but no one local."

Weima says the local scene has changed considerably over the past few years.

"In 2000, electronics were pretty big back then and we had a little bit of that, at least with the keyboards, in Mystic Caravan," he says.

"In 2008, it's hard to see

where the trend is going. We don't fit into the pop-rock category. But melody is still important.

"And the live scene is actually better now. We get a lot more people out to our gigs. At the Merchant, there's a band almost every night, and the Toucan is starting to get more bands. CD sales are down and the only way to experience music is live. And we put on a strong live show." ■



Stewart and Emily Fennell.

Weima gets his inspiration from unconventional places. *Resignation Letter*, for example, was based on Weima resigning from a downtown