

Musician has faith in the kindness of strangers

By M. A. Nyquist
Herald Staff



Al Lukas performed at the Old Fire Hall and Ethelbert School, when he brought his Good Faith Tour to Dauphin.

- M. A. Nyquist/Herald
stuff and I could see his eyes starting to get big," Lukas said.

The pair pitched the documentary to Shirley Cheecho and Blake Debassige of Spoken Song Productions, applied for grants and got started.

Lukas has a handheld camera while on the road, and the couple plans to meet him at various places, along his journey.

"The whole premise of the Good Faith Tour documentary is that I have to barter my way through the country. I'm not allowed to set prices," he said.

"It makes things harder, because I have to come into town by surprise. But it actually makes things a little easier, because I don't have to haggle over money."

Once the film is completed, Lukas said it will be pitched to independent film festivals, such as the Toronto Independent Film Festival.

"We're hoping to submit it to Sundance as well. Just see where it goes, shop it around," he added.

Admitting the tour has turned into a working vacation, Lukas said the project has him slowly moving across Canada,

meeting people and seeing communities he might not have, if he was just vacationing.

"I've been gone for two months now and I'm just at the edge of Manitoba," Lukas said, adding the tour began Oct. 4 in Windsor Ont.

As part of the tour, the singer-songwriter can not give advance notice when he will be in a particular community, unless given a contact.

"If I get a contact from someone, I'm allowed to use it, but I'm not allowed to research the town, like find a pub on the internet," Lukas said.

"I just have to walk in and see what the scene is like."

A former Dauphinite recommended he visit her hometown and check out Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP).

As a result, Lukas was a guest at her parents home in Ochre River and

learned about the Watson Art Centre (WAC) while in RMNP.

"I needed a couple of days to myself, so I did some camping," he said, noting he met a man with a dog on a trail who recommended WAC and he opened for Matthew de Zoete in the Old Fire Hall, Dec. 2.

The tour and filming will be done when Lukas reaches the Pacific Ocean, which he anticipates will occur in March.

Trained as a paramedic, Lukas has been performing since he was 15-years-old, when he played guitar in his father's bluegrass band, Nothing in the Crib.

Lukas released his first album Al Lukas in 2007 and Fall & Flight was released this year.

To follow his progress, check Lukas out at www.lukasproductions.com.

Winter wonders at local library



Art in the library co-ordinator Donna Smith prepares a display of seasonal quilts produced by members of Crocus Quilters for the Dauphin branch of the Parkland Regional Library, Nov. 26. The exhibit of exquisite art from local quilters will be on display for the months of December and January. Library hours are noon to 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, noon to 5:30 p.m. on Friday and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

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Lukas had plans to take a break after a busy summer with his band, The All Lukas Band.

His goal was to backpack Europe, but the Ontario native did not want to go alone and could not find a travelling partner.

"I thought I'd do Canada, because I haven't seen it," he said.

"And then I thought I'll just bring my guitar, do some shows like I'm on vacation."

Reluctant to book a tour, as a rigid schedule would not give him the opportunity to see the country at his own pace, Lukas decided to take a more casual approach to performing and the name, Good Faith Tour stuck to the project.

"I'd offer my music in good faith, for whatever people wanted to offer along the way," he noted.

Lukas said the tour is a social experiment, "a sort of a pay-it-forward thing."

The project expanded to include filming a documentary when Lukas reconnected with a friend, Nano Debassige.

"His parents are in film, which kind of slipped my mind until I started telling him all this

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