

## THE SECRET LIFE OF... RYAN SNIDER

You may know him as a meek, hard-working editor, but inside the gritty local Hip Hop scene, Ryan Snider is better known as "Presto."

At venues, such as Waterloo's Starlight Club, "turntablists," dazzle crowds with their record scratching, and creative beat juggling. Ryan was first drawn to hip hop culture in high school, and started competing as a D.J. a few years ago. On his first try out, he clinched the 2005 K-W DMC Championship (the biggest and the best D.J. competition). Regional winners then go off to compete at nationals, with the top Canadian battling for the world title in London, England. Ryan modestly notes, "My routine wasn't the tightest, but the judges liked it because it was original."

During the 6 minute routine, contestants move back and forth between two turntables, using a mixer to cut sound in and out in a rhythmic style. Ryan won the regional DMC battle again in 2006, but with a new young family, decided to serve as a judge this year. Ryan would love to win the national championship, but his ultimate goal is to be the first hip hop artist to produce, rhyme, scratch, record, shoot, edit, apply special effects, and master his own music video.

Good luck Presto!



## Andrew's African Adventure

Former CKCO reporter Rick Gamble asked me to join him on a 3 week trip to Africa in June. He was involved with the charity "Across Boundaries" who were interested in documenting stories of former child soldiers in Uganda. For the last 20 years a rebel force called The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have been fighting the Ugandan army...and the LRA used mainly kidnapped children to do all the fighting. Now that the war is over (peace talks are currently underway in Juba, Sudan) the child soldiers, who are now young adults, are returning to the villages, and they are facing people who's lives they have destroyed. We went over to find out how they are being accepted and how they are coping with re-integrating into society after spending so many years killing, maiming and destroying. We talked to many former soldiers and victims of their brutality. Their stories were unimaginably brutal and heartbreaking (there's not space here to get into them...ask me sometime) but the victims never blamed the soldiers...they are bitter towards the commanders. The people are sick of war and are willing to forgive everyone involved just to have peace. One highlight I'll never forget was getting stopped at the Sudanese border and being forced to give a government soldier a ride to the next village 3 hours away...it was kind of comforting to have him along as we passed burnt out tanks and other destroyed military vehicles along the way. Despite how brutal everything may sound, we met many wonderful people...and we were greeted with nothing but love and enthusiasm. It truly is a culture of contrasts. I discovered what horrible things a human being will do to survive, and what loving things a human being will do for peace. I came home with a new appreciation of community, Canadian roads, Canadian food, and Canadian scenery.



Andrew showing the kids their picture.



## Happy Birthday!

Cathy Parise	Aug 1
David Imrie	Aug 6
Paul Francescutti	Aug 10
Keith Montag	Aug 12
Joel Bowey	Aug 14
Dave Carswell	Aug 15
Andy Barbato	Aug 21
Andrew Heubner	Aug 23
Lynda Lynch	Aug 23
Michelle Sage	Aug 25
Richele Black	Aug 26
Niall McGee	Aug 28
Kevin Doerr	Aug 30



## Happy Anniversary!

Buck Dunseith	Aug 29 - 32 yrs.
David Imrie	Aug 29 - 30 yrs.
Steve Lowe	Aug 20 - 17 yrs.
Mike Lockston	Aug 5 - 16 yrs.
Jenn Wagner	Aug 14 - 7 yrs.
Penny Jolly	Aug 15 - 6 yrs.
Leslie Gordon	Aug 15 - 6 yrs.
Mercy Chinake	Aug 8 - 1 yr.

## Dave is Flying High – His Baby is Ready for Take Off!

