

PEEL BIOGRAPHY: CANDY, Bill

Dec. 11/94

Bill Candy moves closer to his music

By MIKE BEGGS
Special

Bill Candy's musical career turned a corner a few years back, when three of his Canadian country

singles scored radio air play.

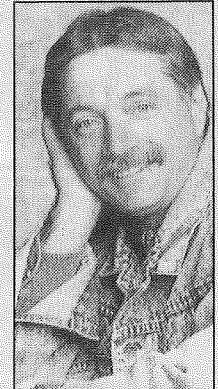
The Mississauga singer, songwriter and guitarist can expect more of the same from his new CD, *Closer To The Music*, to be launched at a Dec. 15 party, at 8 p.m. at Mulligan's,

at 2458 Dundas St. W.

On the new recording, his heartfelt songs have a New Country wash put on by hot Toronto producer Chad Irshick (The Rankin Family, Rita MacNeil) and some solid instrumental work by standouts like local guitarist Mike Francis and drummer Barry Keane (Gordon Lightfoot band) and the late pedal steel player, Ron Dann.

"I have a terrible affliction for hiring top people," said Candy, 43, who lives in the Sheridan Homelands with his wife Joan and three children.

"I'm very happy (with the final mix)."



BILL CANDY

He takes satisfaction from his longevity — having earned notoriety in the 1970s and 1980s with well-known home town folk act Edward, Harding and McLean (recording three albums). He has worked with stars John Allen Cameron and Dinah Christie, while remaining a steady solo club performer.

Still, Candy continues to send his work to the major labels. Having something out on CD should be a step forward.

The disc includes re-mixes of three previous singles, including *I Can't Say That Its True*, that checked in at No. 38 in *The Record's* Top 50 Country Songs of 1991.

The new material is highlighted by lush ballads (the title track and first single, *Peace Of Mind*) and the humorous Vaudeville-era swing of *The Dough's On The Rise (But The Bread's Not Comin' In)* and the country number, *I'm On A Roll*.

Style wise, he still draws more from James Taylor than Garth Brooks.

"I'm not a country & western act," Candy said. "(But), it's an area where hopefully they'll be playing it."

Does he still have the support of fans from the early 1970s?

"Oh yeah, absolutely," he said.

His new CD will be available Dec. 15 for \$19.95 (with Candy donating \$5 from each sale to the Rob Reed Christmas Toy Fund), or through mail order toll free at 1-800-Joe-Radio.

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