

Concerts with cause



Above: Scott Mooney

Left: Lost Boys, featuring Gordon Deppe of The Spoons, play at WoodScott on September 26, 2015.

ROBERT QUINLAN

WHEN COSTCO MEMBER Scott Mooney arrived in Canada from Scotland in 1976 it never occurred to him that 40 years on he would be hosting charity rock concerts—in his garden.

The first was last year with locals dubbing it WoodScott, echoing the legendary 1969 festival Woodstock. Mooney tells *The Connection*, “Growing up in Scotland, I loved listening to all the glam-rock bands. After emigrating I was fortunate enough to see the likes of Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd. I got hooked on live music.”

Mooney, who lives in Bolton, Ontario and runs Sure Automation (sureautomation.ca), a

firm that designs industrial control systems for NASA, got involved in music promotion when he owned a bar for a few years. Afterwards he realised he missed the involvement. “Bands were still contacting me, and I still had the equipment, so I roped in some buddies and we made WoodScott happen”, he explains.

Mooney’s annual visit to Scotland may be postponed in 2016 as, building on last year’s success, two more gigs are scheduled. He concludes, “WoodScott is very important to me. As well as being a lot of fun, we raise money for specific causes. This year we aim to support families affected by the Fort McMurray wildfire.”—Gordon Craigie

Retooled talent

IN 2012, ANGELA Valente was working in her dream job, as quality manager at one of Scotland’s largest colleges. But she was also becoming disillusioned by the increasingly corporate nature of education. The Dundee-based Costco member tells *The Connection*, “I loved my job, I really did, but there was too much unnecessary bureaucracy going on, so I decided it was time for a change.”

Fuelled by a desire to be involved in work she found meaningful, Valente got involved in two new business ventures.

The McIntosh Partnership (themcintoshpartnership.co.uk), Valente’s business consultancy, combines her passion for education with her life experience. She helps companies develop learning and training materials, and offers a wide range of services that help businesses grow.

A lifelong interest in words led her to launch AV Proofreading (avproofreading.co.uk) in 2014. She now has a diverse group of regular clients.

With these new strands—consultancy and proofreading—Valente has clearly established a portfolio career encompassing her talents. Crucially, she is in control of her own time and work location. She concludes, “Starting out in new fields has been challenging, and building a business doesn’t happen overnight, but I’m enjoying what I’m doing and life is good.”—GC



GORDON CRAIGIE

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