

# Putting a spotlight on epilepsy

## Musician Jim Armstrong motivates at upcoming BuskerFest

By Elisa Ionadi

There's no better way to end the summer than having a good time while supporting a good cause. BuskerFest, the largest street festival in Toronto, will wow crowds in St. Lawrence Market from Thursday Aug. 27 to Sunday Aug. 30 all in support of Epilepsy Toronto, a non-profit organization that supports people who have been affected with epilepsy.

Canadian musician Jim Armstrong is one of the many performers (including magicians, mimes, jugglers and fire-breathers) taking part in the Scotiabank-sponsored festival. Beyond being "thrilled to be included among the terrific roster of international artists," Armstrong, who has epilepsy, also has a personal connection to the event.

"BuskerFest serves as a highly entertaining way to bring out the crowds and educate people about epilepsy while raising funds to keep this important charity organization in operation," he says.

Armstrong is an avid supporter of Epilepsy Toronto, and his upcoming performance at BuskerFest is his latest showing of support. In fact, every March,



Jim Armstrong (photo by Ingram Barra)

Armstrong and his band perform at their Sonic Deli Records' Annual Benefit Concert for the organization.

"Epilepsy Toronto is run by a great bunch of people who really care," says Armstrong.

The multi-talented singer-songwriter has had a lot of success since Sonic Deli Records launched his debut album *Mudtown* in 2007, which had reviewers comparing his sound to the likes of Bruce Springsteen and Steve Earle.

Armstrong has just wrapped up his latest album, *Junction Road*, which will be released on Sept. 25 with the CD release party taking place on the same day at the Cadillac Lounge. "Our fans can expect an album that rocks and grooves-

the level of musicianship is extraordinary," explains Armstrong.

Besides playing a good show for his fans and promoting his CD, Armstrong wants to make sure that everyone leaves BuskerFest with an understanding of epilepsy and how they can help out. "If I can teach people what to do to help a person experiencing a seizure or if I can be a good example to someone who has epilepsy, then I feel like I am making a worthwhile contribution to society," says Armstrong. ♦

The 10th annual edition of BuskerFest takes place around the St. Lawrence Market neighbourhood from Aug. 27-Aug. 30. Admission is free with a voluntary donation to Epilepsy Toronto.