

ENTERTAINMENT SUNFLASHES

Bachman and Shawanda added to CCMA awards

Local rock icon Randy Bachman and CMT star Crystal Shawanda have joined the growing list of talents who'll be taking care of business at next weekend's Canadian Country Music Association Awards. Bachman — the former axeman for The Guess Who and Bachman-Turner Overdrive, for those new to Winnipeg — and Shawanda, the Manitoulin Island native whose rise to fame



RANDY BACHMAN

Gone country

was documented in reality show *Crystal: Living the Dream*, were added yesterday to the CCMA Awards show lineup, which already includes such genre luminaries as Dierks Bentley, Doc Walker, Gord Bamford, George Canyon, Emerson Drive, Jessie Farrell, Kellie Pickler and Johnny Reid. Country icons Adam Gregory, Aaron Pritchett, Lisa Brokop and Michelle Wright

have all been tapped to present, alongside Terri Clark, who'll host the show, taking place Sept. 8 at MTS Centre. For a full list of nominees, or more information about Country Music Week (which runs Sept. 5 - 8 in Winnipeg), check www.ccma.org.

Plus for aboriginal artists

Local country-rocker C-Weed (aka Errol Ranville) is spearheading a new distribution system for aboriginal artists, aimed at bringing the best in aboriginal music to the fore of the Canadian market. Through a partnership launched this week, the CDPlus chain will now showcase aboriginal acts via front-line display racks featured prominently in stores throughout the country. "Canada is witnessing an aboriginal music invasion, similar to what happened during the British invasion ... or the success of Motown," says Ranville. "This is an exciting chance to provide visibility and a dedicated platform to a group of musicians typically under-represented in today's marketplace."

>Staff