

Swerving Gently to release new album

CARRIE WHITE

Star Reporter

Since arriving in Golden nine years ago, the guys of John Jenkins and Swerving Gently have been happy to call this little mountain town their home.

The Trio, who has been visible in the Golden music scene for most of their time here, released their first CD as John Jenkins and Swerving Gently in 2008 and has moved full steam ahead since then. Since the release of their critically acclaimed album *Backroads and Highways*, the band has worked tirelessly, performing shows all over B.C. That hard work has come to pay off as the band has recently finished recording their new album – set to be released on July 9, 2009. Unlike the first album, this one is entirely self-financed, something that the band is very proud of.

Entitled *Rare Mileage*, the 12 tracks on the album stay true to the style of Swerving Gently and it is sure to please music lovers of all kinds.

The Golden Star caught up with John and brother Dan, at John's beautiful country property just outside Golden to talk about the latest album and the journey of how it came to be.

John explained that *Rare Mileage* was record-

ed on Vancouver Island at a childhood friend's studio. Recording artist and music engineer Jordan Stringer, is the co-owner of Cabin Fever Studios where Swerving completed their latest project. This collaboration project was a long time coming, especially for John, and the new album marks the concept of the old friends working together.

"He [Stringer] opened the studio this past winter and this is the first major project through his studio," said John, adding that the new album was recorded, mixed and mastered in 13 days.

"It was really intense. We literally camped out in the studio and on day 11, I fully understood the idea of cabin fever," said John laughing.

Being away from home had the band's creative juices flowing and in the beautiful scenery that surrounded them, John said the album evolved and changed as each song was recorded.

"We really dug in, artistically, to develop each song on the album to its full potential," said John.

Swerving's first album was a live recording with the three band members and no additional tracking. For this album the band partnered with Stringer and Julian Baker to collaborate for the whole project so while the recording is in the same live fashion, there are a few added elements of



RACHEL DARVILL/PHOTO

SWERVING GENTLY WILL RELEASE their highly anticipated second CD on July 9 at the Golden Civic Centre.

creativity, but there is still live tracking at the core.

"We play live so that is the style that we are most comfortable with," said John, adding that with the band's solid, tight style, the live session fits right in with their approach.

Throughout their whirlwind year, the band said that they really appreciate all of the support they have received from locally-based music lovers.

"We want to give a big thanks to the community for all their support over the years from business owners to the individuals. The positive feedback we receive is a big part of what keeps us going," said Dan.

"The positive response you receive from fans is what motivates you," said John, adding that Swerving sends a big shout out

to their partners who have been great about coming along for the ride.

The CD release party for *Rare Mileage* will be held on July 9 at the Golden Civic Centre. This CD launch will see the guys perform their 75th show together to mark their second album's release. The band encourages and welcomes people of all ages to come out and enjoy the show.

"We chose the Civic Centre as the venue so that everyone can be included in a setting that they are comfortable with," said John.

Local artist David Low will be painting to the music onstage and he has added that element to many of Swerving Gently's shows over the past winter.

Swerving Gently prom-

ises a great evening where they will perform the new album in its entirety for all who attend the highly anticipated show.

Stringer will perform the opening set, he'll have CDs available and he will also join Swerving Gently for their performance.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and Whistle wetters and refreshments will be available.

Tickets are \$20 and that includes a CD, admission and, of course, a great night of musical entertainment. Children aged 12 and under will receive free admission.

Tickets are available at Elite Nutrition. The last CD release party sold out early so get your tickets before they are gone and come and join Swerving Gently in the celebration.