

A&E

Kathleen laces 'em up with the stars

BY CASSANDRA SZKLARSKI

TORONTO ♦ Canadian teams may be out of the Stanley Cup playoffs, but that hasn't kept Hamilton singer-songwriter Kathleen Edwards from creating her own bit of NHL fun.

The acclaimed roots-rocker is hitting the ice with a hockey-themed music video for the song I Make The Dough, You Get The Glory, off her current disc, Asking For Flowers.

Former NHLers Marty McSorley, Paul Coffey and Brad Dalgarno join Edwards and her band for a lopsided game of shinny that also features sportscaster Dave Hodge as well as Blue Rodeo singer Jim Cuddy in a villainous role.

"I've always wanted to make a hockey video — my whole life I thought it would be the funniest thing and I've never really had a warm reception to the idea," Edwards says from San Diego, Calif., where she's on tour.

"It's about to be summer and my record company was like, 'We need to make a summer video! I don't want to make a summer video, I want to make a hockey video!'"

In the video, Edwards straps on hockey skates for a faceoff against Cuddy but finds herself woefully unprepared — she can barely stand on the ice and Cuddy has stacked his team with an all-star roster of former NHL greats.

Things take a turn for the better when Coffey, an NHL hall of famer, shows her how to skate, and en-



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From left, Brad Dalgarno, Paul Coffey, Kathleen Edwards, Dave Hodge, Jim Cuddy and Marty McSorley.

forcer McSorley shows her how to hip-check.

"There's also this little side fantasy-type moment where... there's a kissing scene!" Edwards gushes.

"It was the best day ever, I have to say, just filming this video was so fun."

Although Edwards' song, I Make The Dough, You Get The Glory,

name-drops McSorley, it isn't even about hockey.

It's about her friendship with one of her bandmates, with lyrics that pair contrasting images like:

"You're the Great One, I'm Marty McSorley," referring to superstar player Wayne Gretzky and his on-ice protector.

Snagging the hockey greats for

the video was a matter of connecting through managers and friends of friends, says Edwards, noting that Cuddy is a hockey nut and buddies with Coffey.

It took a few weeks of wrangling, but the 45-year-old McSorley jumped on board despite recently having hip surgery, says Edwards.

On the ice, 47-year-old Coffey

impressed her with his fitness during the 10-hour shoot at St. Michael's arena in Toronto.

"I did feel his thigh and it's still about as rock hard as you can imagine," she says. "The guy's got crazy, crazy athletic legs."

Edwards and her band have been on the road for much of the playoffs, but she says they've managed to follow the race for the Stanley Cup pretty closely.

"We actually watch the games right up until the time when we hit the stage," she says.

"And then we have a guy onstage with a laptop — because he's got some effects running through it — and he gets the little updates on the scores as the game progresses if the game's not over. So, we generally know what's going on."

Her affection for hockey stretches back to when she was a kid, but she says it's the community vibe that surrounds the game that draws her in.

"I think I like more the spirit of hockey, which is that it brings people together — everyone meets at the bar after work and has some beers and watches the game," says Edwards, whose third disc, Asking For Flowers, came out last month.

"I just kind of love that camaraderie of hockey, it's a real community thing for me."

The video is set for release this week.

On the Net: <http://www.kathleenedwards.com/>

The Canadian Press

Chesney wins top award for 4th straight year

Calls online voting by fans a 'disrespect'

BY JOHN GEROME

LAS VEGAS ♦ Kenny Chesney won entertainer of the year for a fourth straight time Sunday, then promptly took issue with the way the Academy of Country Music awarded the honour: Through fan votes.



Kenny Chesney

For the first time in the show's 43 years, the top prize — traditionally decided by ACM members — was determined through online voting. With the win, Chesney ties Garth Brooks and trails only Alabama, which won five in a row.

Chesney said immediately backstage that he thought fans should be included, but not for the show's most important award.

He said his complaint is directed at the industry, not the fans, and that the method amounted to "complete disrespect" of the artists.

"I don't think it's right that they pick the one award that means the most, that all the artists sacrifice the most for... (and turned it) into a sweepstakes to see who can push people's buttons the hardest on the Internet."

Chesney was the night's leading nominee with 11, and ended up winning two. His other win was for vocal event of the year for his work on the Tracy Lawrence hit Find Out Who Your Friends Are. Chesney also made headlines three years ago when he and actress Renee Zellweger had their four-month-old marriage annulled.

Brad Paisley won top male vocalist, his second in a row. Carrie Un-



HAMILTON SPECTATOR WIRE SERVICES

LEFT: Sugarland's Jennifer Nettles and Kristian Bush perform Sunday. TOP: Keith Urban and wife Nicole Kidman at the music awards show.

derwood also took home her second female vocalist trophy.

It was a night of repeats. Rascal Flatts' top vocal group win was its sixth in a row, while Brooks & Dunn won their 13th straight award for top vocal duo.

But Rascal Flatts singer LeVox disagreed with Chesney about the top honour, saying he hoped the fans continued to choose.

"It's about time," he said, calling fans "the reason that all three of us have jobs."

Miranda Lambert won album of the year and Sugarland took single record and song of the year honours for their mellow hit Stay.

Sugarland's Kristian Bush said about Stay: "Thanks everybody for believing in a song that's almost a five-minute acoustic song."

Jack Ingram won top new male vocalist.

Lady Antebellum took home top new duo or vocal group. "Does this mean we get to hang out with Kenny Chesney now?" the trio's Charles Kelley joked.

Taylor Swift won top new female vocalist. The 18-year-old thanked her mother for going on the road with her beginning when she was 16, so her teenage daughter could pursue her dream.

Earlier, Brad Paisley's Online won video of the year. It was produced by former Seinfeld star Jason Alexander, who also co-starred and made an onstage appearance Sunday night, joking that he didn't believe the stereotype of country stars and fans being religious — seeing as he hadn't spotted any of them at synagogue.

Tracy Lawrence won vocal event of the year for Find Out Who Your Friends Are with Tim McGraw and Chesney.

Brooks received the ACM's Crystal Milestone Award and did a medley of his hits that included The Thunder Rolls, Friends in Low Places and More Than A Memory.

Paisley and Underwood performed a stripped-down version of Eddy Arnold's classic Make The World Go Away. Arnold died May

The winners

- Entertainer of the year: **Kenny Chesney**
- Top male vocalist: **Brad Paisley**
- Top female vocalist: **Carrie Underwood**
- Top vocal group: **Rascal Flatts**
- Top vocal duo: **Brooks & Dunn**
- Top new male vocalist: **Jack Ingram**
- Top new female vocalist: **Taylor Swift**
- Top new duo or vocal group: **Lady Antebellum**
- Album of the year: **Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, Miranda Lambert**
- Single record of the year: **Stay by Sugarland**
- Song of the year: **Stay by Sugarland; Jennifer Nettles, composer**
- Video of the year: **Online, Brad Paisley; Jason Alexander, director**
- Vocal event of the year: **Find Out Who Your Friends Are, Tracy Lawrence with Tim McGraw and Kenny Chesney**

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8pm - Dance excerpts from *A Story Before Time* (ancient Iroquois creation story) and *A Soldier's Tale* (Canadian adaptation of the Russian folk tale with HPO Ensemble).
9pm - Reception and Presentation to Santee Smith, Artistic Director, Kaha:wi Dance Theatre
\$10 (suggested) or Pay-What-You-Can (available at the door only).
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Hamilton Discovery Community Guide 2008/2009

Coming soon, June 26, 2008, the Hamilton Discovery Guide is the quintessential guide to what's happening in our community. From art galleries to fine dining, museums to great shopping destinations, if it's happening in Hamilton then the Hamilton Discovery Guide is where you'll find it.

Included in the guide is the highly read calendar of events, highlighting local festivals, concerts, camps, charity events, and more.

To have your event listed, please email the details to discoveryguide@thespec.com by May 28th. Be sure to include 'Discover Hamilton' in the subject line. Events can take place between July 2008 to May 2009.

HAMILTON DISCOVERY
COMMUNITY GUIDE