

## meet......Scott Skirving

Scott Skirving is nothing if not tenacious and passionate about making country music that delivers a message of truth and honesty to his audiences. And after 30 years of hearing a call to make music his life, his

message and talent are turning heads on the Canadian music scene, proving that dreams pursued with persistence and faith do come true. Scott 's career choice is clear..."There really has never been any other choice for me, no matter whatever else I succeeded at...country music is what makes me feel alive and connected in this life."

But when you're a boy born and raised in Thunder Bay, Ontario the practical and logical career choice is at the local paper mill. And that's where Scott found himself. After 17 years of restlessness and booking every late night local bar gig he could, he finally threw in security for passion. He simply had to leap and trust the bridge would appear.

The country music scene was virtually non-existent in Thunder Bay at the time, so in 1999 Scott moved to Red Deer, Alberta. During his time there he eventually hooked up with Kenny Sitter (lead guitarist for Jo Hikk) and together formed Skyward. They toured the Western Canadian circuit. While in Alberta Scott also had the opportunity to work with Canadian Country Music icon Gary Buck who recorded one of Scott's first singles "Just A State Of Mind" and added it to the "New Faces Two" compilation CD. Touring continued for the next two years through Canada and the US before Scott realized "It was a great experience to travel and work the bar circuit but nothing was happening. This wasn't what I had left my home and family and quit my job of almost 18 years for. I wanted to create and contribute so much more." Something was calling him back to his roots and family....back to Thunder Bay.

The challenge and the call to persevere in music weren't over yet though. He completed his grade 12 where he was chosen Valedictorian, and went on to pursue a 2 year Business Marketing Degree with the intent to use this to fuel his music career. "Music has always been there but I wondered how I could make it really happen. And then, things started to click that revived my hope....the people, support, money, encouragement all happened at just the right time to make me realize the bridge has been there all along, it was just about timing."

Over the past year, Scott has opened for artists such as Beverly Mahood, Aaron Pritchett, Travis Tritt, Wynonna Judd and Don Williams. He has also re-connected with his old friend and fellow band member (with Skyward) Kenny Sitter. They worked together on Scott's brand new album "Here I Am" with Kenny taking on the role of producer at the CCMA nominated MCC Recording Studio in Calgary, Alberta.

"Having Kenny involved and having songs on my CD penned by artists like George Canyon, Dean Brody, Willy Mack, Troy Kokol and Kenny himself, it's been an amazing experience and I'm really looking forward to what's in store."

Scott has recently had his first cross Canada Radio release titled "Pretty Eyes".

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