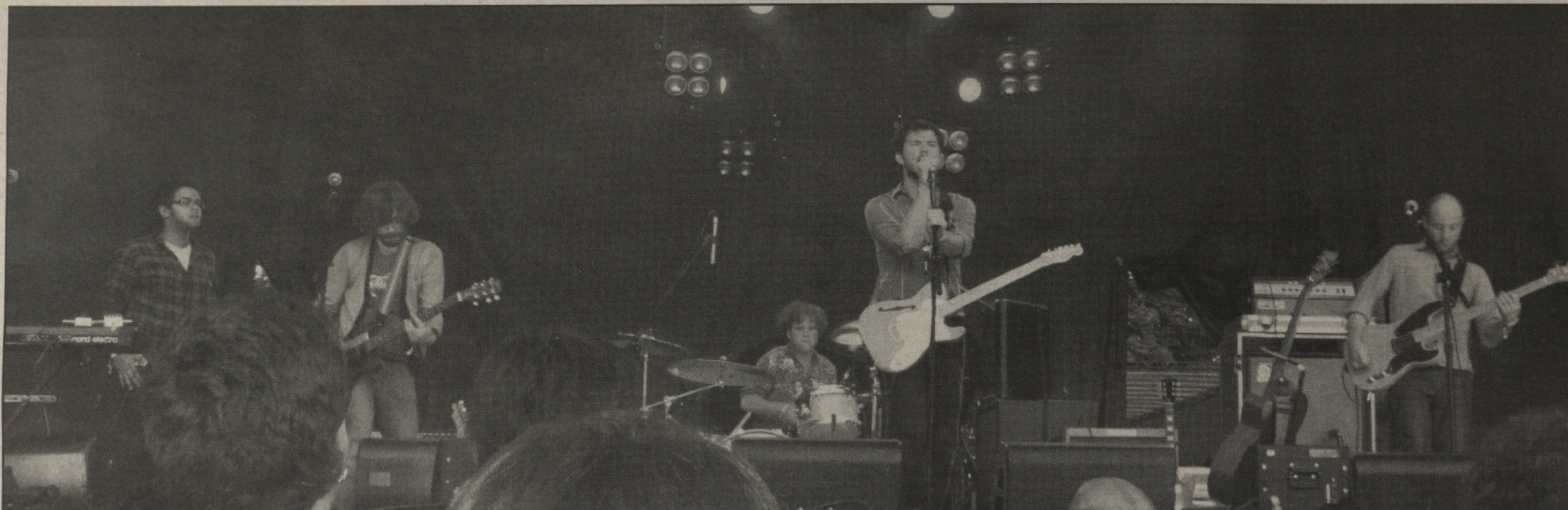


# Wintersleep hits The Wave



Nova Scotia indie-rock act Wintersleep have gained great success, especially in the Maritime provinces, nabbing Juno and East Coast Music Awards. Bysterveldt Photo

By **Whitney Bysterveldt**  
*Panther Post*

Cutting their teeth in Yarmouth Nova Scotia, Wintersleep has gone from small town indie rock side-project to one of the biggest selling acts the East Coast has seen since the Sloan era.

Forming in 2001 this five piece outfit consists of Paul Murphy (vocals/guitar), Loel Campbell (drums), Tim D'eon (keys/guitar), Mike

Bigelow (bass) and Jon Samuel (backing vocals/guitar).

Now three albums deep and into the fourth, Wintersleep is signed with Labwork and Dependent. Their heavy phantom sound coalesces with beautiful yet lonely lyrics sung by Murphy's unique and haunting voice results in an astounding live production. A polished and prominent percussionist, Campbell is a show unto his own and frequently breaks into acute rock n roll solos that capture

the audience.

Although Halifax is home, Wintersleep leads the nomadic life of a troubadour, touring extensively for the past two years touting their latest album *Welcome to the Night Sky* which led to their 2008 Juno award for Band of the Year.

The awards keep coming as they have recently been nominated for an ECMA Best Video Award for the first release off the same album with *Weighty Ghost*.

Murphy rejoined to create 2007's *Beyond*, their eighth studio album.

If you ask me, it was well worth the twenty-year wait.

Let it be known that all three musicians are incredibly talented, each bringing their own individual musical personalities to the group. That being said, J Mascis definitely shines the brightest on this album.

Every track on *Beyond* is solid and feature a relatively unique sound.

Vocally, Mascis is nothing

spectacular but his seemingly unenthusiastic vocal style blends perfectly with the heavy hitting, highly distorted sound of the band. With Barlow's fast, heavily distorted bass lines and the quick, heavy-handed Murph behind the drum kit, *Beyond* boasts a loud, in-your-face sound that doesn't let up until the silence following the closing track.

However, Mascis' lengthy, melodic, and distortion-laden solos are what truly sets Dinosaur Jr apart from oth-

As if the work involved with Wintersleep wasn't enough, band members Campbell, Bigelow and D'eon take part in number of side projects. Perhaps most well known is the Polaris short-listed and pejoratively named electronica maestros *Holy Fuck*.

You may have also seen their faces at *Contrived*, *Hayden*, *The Holy Shroud* and *The Remains of Brian Borcherdt* shows in recent history.

For those who are fans er bands; his guitar solo on "Pick Me Up" is incredible and effortlessly holds the listener's interest for its close to three minute duration.

In my opinion, the album's stand-out tracks are "Pick Me Up," "Back To Your Heart," and "Almost Ready." "Back To Your Heart," one of the two songs written by Lou Barlow, is an all-around excellent song supported by an extremely catchy riff played throughout the chorus. "Almost Ready," the first song on the album wastes abso-

lutely no time introducing listeners to the distortion that the band has come to be known for. If you're looking for something out-of-the-ordinary, Dinosaur Jr's *Beyond* is an excellent choice. Developing their sound over almost three decades, Mascis, Barlow, and Murph all managed to age like a fine wine.

With a sound that is entirely their own, Dinosaur Jr are essentially antithetical to boring, lackluster music.

## Dinosaur Jr goes Beyond

By **Ryan Merry**  
*Post contributor*

Dinosaur Jr's founding fathers reunited in 2005 to begin recording their latest piece of work after a hiatus of almost twenty years, Dinosaur Jr's three original members, J Mascis, Lou Barlow, and Emmet "Murph"