

# the McGillicuddys

Parveyors of the finest Celtic Punk Rock'n'Roll  
Since 1998

## Promotional Package

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Website: [www.mcgillicuddys.ca](http://www.mcgillicuddys.ca)

MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/themcgillicuddys>



## About McGillicuddys

The **McGillicuddys** are a five-piece, Celtic punk rock'n'roll band from Victoria BC, formed in 1998.

The band's music is a cross between traditional Celtic music and old-school punk rock'n'roll, influenced by groups like the **Pogues**, **Clash** and **Dubliners**; and have a similar sound to current bands like **Flogging Molly**, **The Mahones**, **Social Distortion** and **Dropkick Murphys**.

The **McGillicuddys** have completed their second full-length CD, entitled "Sin Lane," which will be officially released in early 2010. The band is currently booking tour dates to coincide with the release of "Sin Lane."

## Band Members

**Mike Walker:** lead vocals, mandolin, tin whistles, guitar. Mike has previously played with The Resistance (Canada), Designer Fear (UK), released records with both bands, and toured extensively in both Canada, and the UK. Mike also founded Celtic rockers Big Whiskey and played the pipes in the Canadian Scottish Regiment.

**Jill Clayton:** accordion, vocals. Jill was a classical pianist, with training from the Toronto Conservatory of Music, and played accordion in Celtic rockers, Big Whiskey.

**Ian Barrett:** electric and acoustic guitars, vocals. Ian has played in various alternative bands in Victoria, and has a background as a jazz guitarist.

**Michelle Kent:** bass, vocals. Michelle has played a variety of instruments in several bands, including drums in Big Whiskey (Celtic rock), guitar in Skanky Crackdown (ska) and bass in Gerald Fitzella (alt-folk)

**Brent Restall:** drums, vocals. Brent previously played drums in the prog-punk band Dahgaz.

## Previous Releases

"Kilt by Death" (independent, 2002) 12 song CD, domestic release.

- "Kilt by Death" (Retch Records, Liverpool UK 2002) 14 song CD world-wide release.
- "Shite'n'Onions Vol. 2: What the Shite" compilation CD (Shite'n'Onions, 2006) – *On the Rocks*.
- "World Wide Noise Attack: The Movie" DVD (Retch Records, 2004) - video for *Leaving of Liverpool*.
- "The Best of Retch Records" compilation CD (Step 1 Music, 2003) – *Leaving of Liverpool*.
- "World Wide Noise Attack" compilation CD (Retch Records, 2003) – *Leaving of Liverpool*.
- "Sex with Nothing" compilation CD (Brainless, 2002) – *Fade Away* (remix).

## Tours and Performances

**McGillicuddys** play regularly throughout Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, averaging more than a dozen shows a year. In addition to these dates, the band does an annual fall tour through BC and Alberta.

In 2003 **McGillicuddys** did a 10 date, two week western-Canadian tour from Victoria to Winnipeg, supporting the release of their CD, "Kilt by Death."

**McGillicuddys** have played with a variety of well-know bands, encompassing many genres (punk, Celtic, metal, folk and ska), including the **Real McKenzies**, **Mahones**, **Vibrators**, **The Popes**, **Town Pants**, **Mad Caddies**, **Noise Therapy** and **Ashley MacIssac** (a one-off acoustic set opening for him, and him opening as a "special guest" at the Vancouver Celtic Festival).

## Contact and Website

Contact the McGillicuddys at [mcgillicuddys@shaw.ca](mailto:mcgillicuddys@shaw.ca)

McGillicuddys website and MySpace page: [www.mcgillicuddys.ca](http://www.mcgillicuddys.ca) and [www.myspace.com/themcgillicuddys](http://www.myspace.com/themcgillicuddys)



## Band Biography

Under the influence of old school punk rock and traditional Celtic tunes, the McGillicuddys are likened to a psycho ceilidh amped up with power chords: drums, bass and electric guitar provide a thumping background for the lashings of mandolin, tin whistle and accordion that complete the glorious din. This heady mixture is topped off with the gritty real-life lyrics, and catchy boot-stomping songs that make up the full bodied McGillicuddys experience – psycho ceilidh punk! Living in Victoria BC, on the West Coast of Canada, The McGillicuddys have developed a sound best described as The Pogues meets The Clash, with a bit of Social Distortion thrown in for good measure, and have a sound similar to current bands like Flogging Molly and The Dropkick Murphys.

The McGillicuddys latest full length CD, aptly entitled “Sin Lane,” is now completed, and will be officially released in early 2010. This 12 track CD will feature original songs written and inspired by the McGillicuddys’ 12 years of playing music and touring together, offering a glimpse into the misadventures, sin and debauchery traversed along the way. Together with original compositions, “Sin Lane” also includes a ‘McGillified’ punk rock interpretation of the traditional Celtic tune, *The Banks of the Roses*, and covers of Richard Thompson’s *1952 Vincent Black Lightning*, and The Nips’ *Gabrielle*.

The McGillicuddys first full length CD, “Kilt by Death,” was independently released in Canada in May of 2002 to rave reviews. The CD contains twelve tracks, ranging from the punk inspired *On the Rocks*, to a more traditionally influenced *Lady Owen*, with the cow-punk tinged *Please Stay* nicely balancing the mix. Retch Records (Merseyside, UK) released “Kilt by Death” world-wide in September 2003. This version of the CD included two bonus tracks and was distributed in the UK, Europe, Australia, Japan and the US. Tracks from *Kilt by Death* also appear on *Shite'n'Onions: Vol. 2 - What the Shite* (2006), Retch Records’ *World Wide Noise Attack* (CD and DVD), *Step One’s The Best of Retch Records*, and the *Sex with Nothing* compilation by Brainless Productions.

The birth of many Canadian bands often has to do with either beer, hockey, or both, and the McGillicuddys are no exception. After playing and touring in punk and politico-hardcore bands, in both the UK and in Canada in the early 1980’s and 1990’s, front-man Mike Walker decided to return to his Celtic roots as a former piper in the Canadian Scottish Regiment. Taking up the mandolin and tin whistle, Walker formed a six-piece Celtic rock band called Big Whiskey in 1994, and that’s where the hockey comes in. During a beer-league hockey game, Walker was suitably impressed with his team mate Michelle Kent’s breakaway goal, and over a few post-game pops he discovered he had found the drummer Big Whiskey was looking for. Shortly after, when Big Whiskey found themselves an accordion player short, Kent recruited former band-mate Jill Clayton into the band to fill the void.

After Big Whiskey disbanded in 1995, Walker met guitarist Ian Barrett, and this time beer was the central theme. Both belonged to the rogue homebrewing group, the Raging Grainies, and found that they had similar tastes in music (as well as beer). Walker and Barrett decided the local Celtic music scene needed more of a punk edge, and formed the McGillicuddys. They enticed Clayton to join up, again on accordion, and added drummer Brent Restall – all four have been with the band since its inception. A ‘Spinal Tap’ like parade of bass players came and went, until Michelle Kent, *Lucky #7*, also joined the McGillicuddys—this time on the bass instead of drums.

The McGillicuddys bring a high-energy Celtic punk rock ‘n’ roll party to packed dance floors wherever they play. Their edgy arrangements and punk rock sensibilities appeal equally to both the alternative crowd, and to those who love traditional Celtic music. Along with their own headlining shows, the McGillicuddys have played with a variety of well-known bands encompassing many genres (punk, Celtic, metal, folk and ska), including the Real McKenzies, Mahones, Vibrators, The Popes, Town Pants, Mad Caddies, Noise Therapy and Ashley MacIssac (both a one-off acoustic set opening for him in Victoria, and him opening for the McGillicuddys as a “special guest” at the Vancouver Celtic Festival). The McGillicuddys play regularly throughout Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland including an annual fall tour of BC and Alberta. In addition to their huge repertoire the band is known for being both a crowd and venue pleaser, as audiences compete for the chance to buy the band subliminally encouraged whiskeys. You can catch the McGillicuddys live on their upcoming tour dates in 2010, supporting the release of their new full length CD, “Sin Lane.”



## Press Quotes

### Live Reviews

"Complete with ... tin whistles and infectious rhythms these players have the dynamics to pack dance floors wherever they play. The band appeals to the alternative dance crowd with their edgy arrangements and punk sensibilities but remains solid with those that love roots music from Ireland and Scotland."

**Comox Valley Echo (Canada)**

"The McGillicuddys mix accordion, guitar, bass, drums, whistle and vocals, producing Celtic/punk music that will stir your Celtic soul (even if you're not from the Isles!)."

**HabourLiving.ca (Canada)**

"The black-clad five piece, with accordion, guitar, bass, drums, male and female vocals, and whistle transported the crowd to a mythical smoky pub with brawling songs of drink, hard livin' and hard lovin'."

**Abe Goldman-Armstrong, Shite'n'Onions (USA)**

"The McGillicuddys put on a fantastic show, and I'd definitely go see them again. I'm looking forward to the next CD and being able to listen to some of the new material all the time. It was a fun-filled action packed evening that I won't be forgetting any time soon!"

**Naomi de Bruyn, Linear Reflections (Canada)**

### Kilt by Death CD Reviews

"The punk rock guitar, bass and drums make a great noise, but they still leave lots of room for the traditional instruments to shine through. There are lashings of mandolin, whistle and accordion, and the plaintive strum of an acoustic guitar can sometimes be heard through the glorious din. Much of the music kinda brings to mind the Pogues plus powerchords."

**Andy Carr, Roaring Jack Archives (Australia)**

"Right when we here at Shite'n'Onions think we have covered them all under our collective radar, another band sneaks up from behind with a giant left hook! That's what The McGillicuddys did. They snuck up on me with their debut album, "Kilt by Death" and knocked me over with it."

**Brian Gillespie, Shite'n'Onions (USA)**

"this Canadian group manage to do this really [sic] good ... I get so fucking happy when I hear this group and it feels in every of my leg and arms."

**Peter Thorsson, Skrutt: The Home of Wonderful Music (Sweden)**

"This is a party disc, with some of the best Celtic punk-edged rock I've heard in a very long time. It's definitely worth whirling on the CD player a few thousand times!"

**Naomi de Bruyn, Linear Reflections (Canada)**

### Finally

"Through stout foam moustaches, there was . . . a wonderful discussion of leprechauns and Vulcans: "live long and score the pot of gold."

**Bill Stuart, Monday Magazine (Canada)**

For full text reviews, articles and interviews, go to <http://mcgillicuddys.ca/pages/reviews.htm>



Photo by Holly Pattison