



The year 1974 produced a special vintage of Saint John's musicians, including all six members of Rocka-Rolla, a band that made its debut in Mary Commons in 1971 and continues to have fun playing to this day.

They're not career musicians. Only one was a music major. But musical glue and a Johnnie bond have held John Kennedy '74, Todd Mueller '74, Richard Schletty '74, Tom Johnson '74, Leon Schilmoeller '74 and Steven Kutcher '74 together.

Johnson and Kennedy have done some duet performances, but most of the Rocka-Rolla's post-college gigs have been street dances Johnson's family hosts and the occasional church festival.

The band covers 1950s and '60s rock like the Beatles and Beach Boys plus an old-time component of bunny hops, waltzes and polkas. More than three decades after college, they're reigniting their spark.

"As our kids are getting older, I think we're saying 'Let's do this. Let's play out more,'" said Schletty, a graphic designer by day.

They started inserting new songs into their lineup, some of them Schletty originals.

Schletty, meanwhile, has recently started taking music more seriously, collaborating online with other musicians and performing solo shows.

After 30 years, Rocka-Rolla is still rocking.

▶ Richard Schletty: www.schletty.com/sonority

Rocka-Rolla