

### Celtae

Last night Ami and I wandered down to Mother McGintey's in the [Irish Village](#) on Clarence Street. If you're ever in Ottawa and want a place to hang out and let loose on a Friday or Saturday night you should really stop by. The Irish Village is made up of 4 connected pubs, each with their own atmosphere, and 2 of the 4 have live Celtic/folk/east coast music free of charge. That's right, no cover like the [Olde Dublin](#) back home.

[...]

There are a couple of things that make Celtae stand out from the other bands that play at Mother McGintey's. First of all, the guys wear kilts and the girl wears pants. That is to say, the guys wear kilts, boots, [sporrans](#) and t-shirts. Normally Tyree wears a [Decepticons](#) t-shirt with his kilt but last night he was getting all sorts of girls going up to him during the set breaks to tell him how much they loved his [Strong Bad t-shirt](#). The fact that the band has a [Homestar Runner](#) fan in it gets them extra bonus points. Another thing that sets the band apart is the fact that about half the music they play is actually written by them, which is a rare thing in the pubs of Ottawa. Most bands play a blend of traditional Irish drinking songs and some more current fare, like [Great Big Sea](#). These guys, on the other hand, have actually put out a cd of mostly original tunes, and it's really, really good. I'm actually listening to it now while I write this post. Off the top of my head I can't think of any Celtic bands that have written a better song than Merchant Marine within the last few years. To be honest, when I first heard it I figured it was a lesser known [Stan Rogers](#) song because I figured it was too good to be one of theirs, but they wrote it for the [Canadian Merchant Navy](#) men that had to fight for decades to get [DVA](#) pensions from the Canadian government.

These guys have talent. Check them out if you ever have the chance. In Ottawa they tend to play a lot at Mother McGintey's and Patty Boland's but unfortunately for the rest of you they don't seem to tour too much. You can listen to some [sounds clips](#) on their site though, and their album 'No Regrets' is available [online](#).