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## MUSIC

# Group Therapy and the OCD Horns has long musical legacy in K-W

By **Valerie Hill** Special to the Record

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**KITCHENER** — With a name like Group Therapy and the OCD Horns, the nine musicians in this rather eclectic band often have a lot of explaining to do. First off, don't be offended by the term OCD if you happen to suffer from the condition. In this case, it means Old & Crazy Dudes, according to band member Tony Bergauer.

The group doesn't take itself too seriously though members are all accomplished musicians. On Friday, Aug. 19, they will fill the stage at Club Elements performing with their favourite co-stars, The Crazy Diamonds and The Diviners.

"We performed last February with Crazy Diamonds and wanted to do it again," said Bergauer. "This will be a double billing."

Bergauer comes from music royalty. He is son of Mike Bergauer known locally for decades as "Mr. Music." Mike started playing on the radio at age 13 then joined a professional band at 14. Though a trumpet player, he was also able to play most band instruments. As an educator, he spent his 35-year career developing a music program for the Waterloo Region Catholic School Board, teaching in both elementary and high schools. His last posting was St. Jerome's High School where Tony Bergauer and many members of Group Therapy met as teens.

"We used to play together in high school," said Bergauer. "Everybody played. It's a tight-knit community. My dad taught so many students, so a lot of the musicians in Group Therapy used to play in my dad's bands."

The elder Bergauer, now 82, suffers from ill health and lives in a retirement residence. His legacy continues through Group Therapy and the OCD Horns.

Bergauer also sings tenor in the 16-piece jazz vocal ensemble Soul Sauce. He said that with Group Therapy and the OCD Horns, the musicians are pretty much limitless in the music they play given the versatile horn section.

"We're able to do a lot of music others can't do," he said. "Six out of nine in the group can also sing lead so we're able to do a lot of songs others can't."

As for the name, it developed in the 1980s when a group of musicians decided to get together to "relieve stress" said Bergauer. "None of us were professionals, we all had day jobs." Bergauer is a real estate project manager but his first love has always been music.

That original group drifted apart in 2008: "Everybody went their separate ways." But now they are in their 50s, settled in their careers and the stage began to tempt them again.

"In 2014 we wanted to get the band back together," he said. "It's a blast, we love to play together."

Their companion band, the nine-piece Crazy Diamonds, was formed in 2012 and is a tribute to Pink Floyd — although the band plays an eclectic range of music: rock, psychedelic, jam, funk, soul, disco, blues and more.

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The stage at Elements on Friday night will certainly be jammed packed with musicians and vocalists and "everybody is local" providing a chance to show off the remarkable talent in Waterloo Region.

## Mid Summer Meltdown

Friday, Aug. 19, doors open 7 p.m., 19+ show

Club Elements, 90 King St. W., Kitchener

Tickets advance \$15, at the door \$20, list of locations visit [grouptherapyandtheoedhorns.com](http://grouptherapyandtheoedhorns.com)