

Former Cougar still has claws (photos)

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SooToday.com

Saturday, February 09, 2008



From the opening notes of Tom Cochrane's *Human Race* it was obvious that the Friday night concert at the Steelback Centre was a double-bill.

Tom Cochrane and Red Rider was much more than an opening act for America's King of the Heartland, John Mellencamp.

And the capacity audience only drove that point home by demanding an encore from the Juno Award-winning Canadian rocker.

Reunited with original Red Rider members Ken Greer and Jeff Jones, Cochrane opened those beautiful pipes of his and breathed new life into timeless hits, such as *Lunatic Fringe*, *Big League*, *White Hot*, *Life is a Highway* and my personal favourite, *Boy Inside The Man*.

Gracefully acknowledging the talent that was to follow him that evening, Cochrane stated

matter-of-factly that "Mellencamp's *Scarecrow* is one of the greatest albums ever written."

He also performed a few selections from his most recent album *No Stranger*, which has received a nomination for Adult Alternative Album of the Year at the 2008 Juno Awards.

The entire album, including his spectacular cover of *Spirit In The Sky*, can be previewed on Cochrane's [website](#).