

## 100 mile house

hollow ponds (Independent)

CD's that excite me plop their way into my lap in the funniest ways. My first David Francey album took two years to wind it's way westward from Quebec and arrive courtesy of Vic Bell from the Nickelodeon music club in Calgary. At the 2011 Calgary Folk Festival Song contest finals for the "pros and prose" category (for writers who have released a commercial CD) I really liked the song Better Still by 100 Mile House. It placed first and earned the band \$3500.00 in prize money among other things. I asked Peter Stone to send me some more of their work and a brown envelope subsequently arrived with hollow ponds.

It is the band's third release. Peter Stone, an expat Brit, and his wife Denise Mackay moved back to Edmonton a few years ago after a time playing in and around in London. returning to Alberta, they reconnected with Scott Zubot and 100 mile house was formed. Thank heavens. It is a magical combination and hollow ponds is a terrific album. Moody at times, Peter and Denise 's voices blend perfectly and Scott's fiddle adds just the right touch. Evoking travels done and to come, the songs seem to approach and then roll over you like a line of gentle prairie rain.

I particularly like Peter's turns of well written phrases like from better still:

"If this could bore one lesson/ I should learn to be more honest still.../So the next time I see my parents/I'll tell them how I really feel"

You will be hearing more and more from this band and if they are as new to you as to me, go seek them out at their gigs. Trust me it'll be worth it.

-By les siemieniuk