

A bus trip
back to the '70sEx-teen heartthrob David Cassidy
still knows how to lay down a beat.

Lake Country Weekend C1

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C'mon,
Get Happy
(You know you want to.)And **David Cassidy**, who shot to stardom
as Keith on the quintessential '70s TV show
The Partridge Family, doesn't mind if you
shout, scream and sweat eitherBy Jim Purnell
The Packet & Times**B**aby boomers can relive their
youth at Casino Rama when
1970s teen idol David Cassidy hits
the stage.Cassidy and his seven-piece band
are set to play an energetic hour-long
set that will include most of his hits at
the casino's entertainment centre
tonight."It's come and let loose. Let your
hair down and scream and shout and
sweat. Let's have a ball, we're going to
do that at Casino Rama," said Cassidy
during a recent telephone interview
from his south Florida home."All but maybe one or two of the
songs, people will know by heart
with me playing some of the songs
people haven't heard in a long
time," said Cassidy, clad only in
shorts while suntanning on his deck
overlooking a waterway.The 52-year-old plans to play hits
like I Think I Love You that he
made popular while portraying
Keith, the lead vocalist on the
early 1970s TV show *The
Partridge Family*. He also
plans to play hits like
Cherish from his early
solo career when his
fan club had more
members than the
Beatles combined.Cassidy, who changes his set every
night, said he'll play a few surprise
songs by musicians who influenced
him."I became a guitar player when I
was 13 years old because I saw the Bea-
tles and I'm going to play the song I
saw them play on the Ed Sullivan
Show," he said.He would not reveal the Beatles'
tune he plans to play nor if he'll play
songs by Jimi Hendrix, another major
influence who Cassidy saw five times
in his youth.He's looking forward to playing the
hits at Casino Rama's 5,000-seat en-
tertainment centre, a far cry from the
packed stadiums he used to play in
during the early 1970s."For me, it's much preferable to
play in smaller venues because it is
more intimate and I interact a lot with
my fans," said Cassidy about his only
scheduled Canadian gig this year."It's a celebration of 30 years in mu-
sic and the connection I have with fans
who have been so incredibly support-
ive," he added about his first Canadian
concert in a dozen years.Cassidy expects that interaction to
include women tossing their under-
wear and bras on stage. Such passion-
ate demonstrations do not disrupt his
family life.For more, please see Cassidy
on Page C4.

Photos: www.davidcassidy.com

Just the facts

Who: 1970s teen idol and TV star David Cassidy,
performing hits like: Cherish, I Think I Love You,
C'mon Get Happy and I Woke Up In Love This
Morning.**Place:** Casino Rama**Date:** Tonight**Time:** 9 p.m.**Cost:** Tickets start at \$18**On the Web:** www.davidcassidy.com**Latest album:** Then And Now, a collection of new
material and previous hits spanning the last three
decades.

Cassidy loves to entertain

Continued from C1

"She knows that people have a
real connection with me," said Cas-
sidy about his wife Susan Shiffrin-
Cassidy."She lived in England and we met
in 1973. She saw my concert at Wem-
bley Stadium so she remembers the
hysteria. She knows what it is and
appreciates it, she gets it, she under-
stands it, she doesn't feel threatened
by it."Cassidy, who regrets that his ac-
tor father did not spend more time
with him, said he spends as much
time as possible with his 12-year-old
son Beau.Cassidy teaches his son guitar,
but says he won't push him into a
career as an entertainer."He'll be whatever he chooses to
be, but I suspect he'll be an actor
and a serious musician," he said.Cassidy plans to return to Toron-
to in the summer with his family so
they can visit with friends he made
while performing in the musical
Blood Brothers in 1996. Cassidy also
loves to visit Toronto to watch his
horses race at Woodbine."Canadians are the warmest,
most genuine, most friendly people
I've ever encountered," he said.Because he loves visiting Canada,
Cassidy said he would like to play in
the area again later this year.If he returns, he'll have new ma-
terial to play because he flies to En-
gland to record a new CD the day af-
ter his Casino Rama gig.Before going, Cassidy will donate
the gifts from fans to a local thrift
store."I don't take (the gifts) with me
because we go from one city to the
other. I don't pack a lot of under-
wear and bras in my suitcase," he

says with a chuckle.

Fans may also see Cassidy on the
big screen soon because he is con-
sidering an offer to act in a feature
film. Despite several offers to do a
Partridge Family reunion show,
Cassidy awaits a decent script be-
fore even considering that.Meanwhile, Cassidy is focusing
on playing his music, something he
hasn't done in a decade because he's
been performing in musicals."It's been an amazing thing for
me to go all over the world again and
play and do what I love to do," Cas-
sidy said as he reflected on recent
tours of Britain and Australia."I love to entertain people. I love
to make them laugh, I love to make
them cry and we jump up and down
and scream and shout and dance
and sing and have a ball."Expect Cassidy to deal similar ex-
citement at Casino Rama.