

This city has reason to crow

Ohio town
that launched
a thousand
jokes leaps
into the
limelight

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Special for USA TODAY

CLEVELAND — Out from under the rock of hard times, Cleveland is definitely on a roll.

And to celebrate its new status, the city that has spawned many a bad joke held an impromptu celebration Monday.

Several hundred people gathered outside the Burke Lakefront Airport in T-shirts and shorts to dance to rock's legendary *Satisfaction*.

Beer flowed and Frisbees flew. Radio stations covered the festivities live.

Inside, champagne and finger sandwiches were the fare for politicians congratulating themselves and their town. They'd just come back from New York, where Cleveland was officially named the future home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

They were clad in painter's caps and shirts bearing the boasts, "Cleveland Home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame" and "Cleveland We Won."

"It just proves one thing. If we can get our act together and work together, nobody can stop us," Mayor George Voinovich told the crowd.

"It's nice to be home in Cleveland, the all-America city, home of the first-place Cleveland Indians and home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame!"

Referring to the city's all-out campaign for the hall, he added, "Those 650,000 signatures on those petitions and those 110,000 phone calls (to a USA TODAY hotline) blew 'em away. We did it."

Monday's announcement is just the newest reason to break out the bubbly and the brew.

The city of 540,000 on the Cuyahoga River has many other reasons to crow along with its mayor:

■ The Cleveland Indians, who haven't won a pennant

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