

Glass Tiger and Platinum Blonde to headline September's Ribfest



By Brock Weir

Aurora's 2014 Ribfest will have an extra dose of star power this September with headliners Glass Tiger and Platinum Blonde.

The homegrown Glass Tigers will hit the stage on Friday, September 5, starting at 9 p.m. Platinum Blonde will perform the following evening, also at 9 p.m.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe announced the headliners before a packed crowd at Town Park on Wednesday night for Concert in the Park, featuring the Celtic rock group The Tartan Terrors to enthusiastic cheers.

He spoke of the excitement of bringing two classic rock groups to Aurora ? but also of the excitement of Aurora's Special Events Coordinator Shelley Ware in making everything come together.

?We're all very excited for this,? says Ms. Ware. ?We're excited to have these events in the community. What we can offer by having these classic rock headliner bands is we're actually giving the community a chance to rekindle their memories. When you look at events like Movies in the Park and Concerts in the Park, you're making current memories. This is a classic way of looking back to the past and sharing it with your neighbour.?

With Glass Tiger, their local roots in Newmarket was an obvious draw from the Town's perspective, and a draw for members of the public as well, which quickly became evident to Ms. Ware.

?I am constantly being told stories of when Glass Tiger visited their schools and for a lot of people their very first concert was Glass Tiger. That, in itself, is a neat experience because as these classic rock bands become classic, the chances to play live become rarer, which makes the actual experience more special.?

Ribfest runs at Machell Park on Aurora Heights Drive, just west of Yonge Street, Friday September 5, and Saturday, September 6 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and finishes up on Sunday, September 7 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Age of majority for Ribfest activities is required after 8 p.m.

Additional activities planned for Ribfest include Top 20 performances for the Hoedown Showdown, a kids' activity zone, the Glenn Marais Band, and a beer garden hosted by the Aurora Rotary Club.

In his remarks last week, Mayor Dawe paid tribute to the support Ribfest receives each year from the Aurora Rotary Club, which will once again host their beer garden. Additional sponsors and partners, in addition to Ontario Central Counties Tourism, include Aurora Chrysler, L.H. Lind Realty, Motion in Life Chiropractic, the Investors Group, and Northern Karate Schools.

“There are a number of events over the weekend I would highlight,” added Mayor Dawe. “There is the Hoedown Showdown on Saturday afternoon, which is the prelude to them being picked to perform at Hoedown a week later. There is also the Ribfest judging contest, which is on Sunday afternoon.”

A new addition to the Ribfest family this year is Billy Mountain's Travelling Chainsaws, a troupe of 10 guys taking “massive logs” and turning them into art over just a few days.

“On Friday, you might have an idea what they are making,” says Ms. Ware. “Come Saturday, you might have a better idea, but come Sunday you are going to have an outstanding finished product. In carving wood, and carving art out of wood, it really is a sincere talent and to see it live and done before you, I think that, again, is going to be a really unique experience and this is the first time it will be done at Ribfest.”