

Aurora's Suma contends for Hoedown Showdown spot



Mac Shepherd, Keswick

By Brock Weir

Fresh off her win as Aurora's 2016 Teen Idol on Canada Day, Melissa Suma will be vying for another title next weekend after being named one of the Top 20 finalists in the 2016 Hoedown Showdown.

Hosted by Magna International, the 2016 Hoedown Showdown is a wide-reaching contest looking for Canada's up and coming country stars.

40 hopefuls from across Ontario descended on Theatre Aurora on Henderson Drive last Thursday to contend for a spot in the Top 20, offering a sampling of just about every sub-genre of country music from the classics of the 50s to the country-pop of today.

The Top 20 will take the stage once again next Saturday, August 26 at Machell Park, an annual highlight of Aurora's Ribfest where they will be whittled down to the Top 10 who will then perform under the big top of Magna's Wild, Wild West Hoedown on September 16 before Canadian music icon Alan Doyle takes the stage when the Hoedown Showdown champ will be crowned.

The grand prize is valued at \$20,000 ? including \$2,500 cash, a Yamaha guitar, two full days of recording at Metalworks Studios, coaching, styling, and song-writing by industry professionals ? and a chance to perform at the September 17 Hoedown grand finale ahead of headliner Paul Brandt.

Your Top 20, in alphabetical order, are:

John Anderson, Barrie

Roy Borden, Jr., Trenton

Erin Briggs, Zephyr

Sarah Campbell Mills, Burlington

Mike Chianelli, Sutton

Susanne Creech, Markham

Amber Crump, Stouffville

Karishma Doodnauth, Richmond Hill

Jade Daniel Eagleson, Millbrook

Kylie Fallis, Hamilton

Jacquelyn Lawson, King City

Matt Morson, Nobleton
Brittany O'Brien, Keswick
Josh Ross, Dundas
Mac Shepherd, Keswick
Melissa Suma, Aurora
Celine Tellier, Chelmsford
Ryan Vanlieshout, Haliburton
Patricia Villegas, Newmarket
Cameron Von Criegern, Peterborough