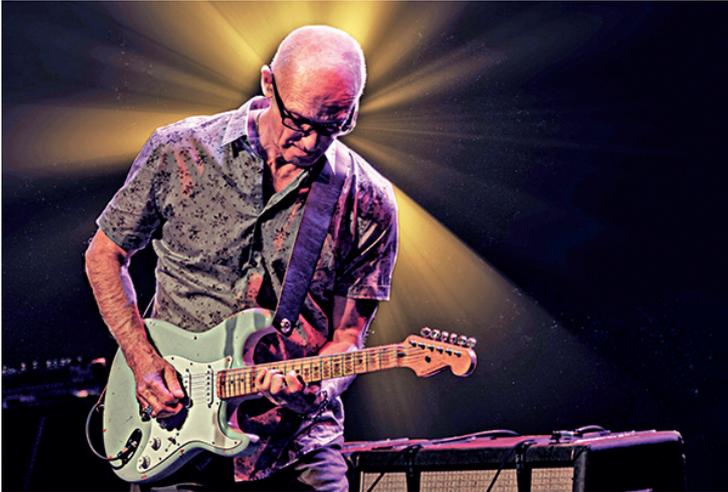


Canadian favourites 54-40 and Kim Mitchell to headline 2022 Ribfest



They've made Canadians get up on their feet with such hits as "I Go Blind" and "Patio Lanterns" and now 54-40 and Kim Mitchell are set to bring their iconic sounds to Aurora as headliners for this year's Ribfest.

The 2022 headliners were announced last week at Concerts in the Park.

Ribfest will take place at Machell Park from Friday, August 26 through Sunday, August 28.

54-40 will take the stage at 9 p.m. on the Friday, while Mitchell will perform on Saturday, August 27 at 9 p.m.

"This is really starting off the Ribfest weekend really strong," says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora, who says she has strong memories of listening to 54-40 during her Frosh Week in 1994. "It's nice to polish a gem in Canadian music history. It's quite humbling when you research 54-40 and find they have four Platinum and one certified Gold albums in Canada, which is a really amazing contribution."

Being able to book Kim Mitchell for the Saturday evening show came as something of a relief to organizers as well. Mitchell was just about to be signed as the Ribfest headliner in 2020, but, of course, the height of the global pandemic got in the way of that.

"It is really gratifying to make it possible this year; I remember learning to drive when you would only listen to a radio or a tape cassette and I learned to drive when Mitchell was on and here I am at the 16th Ribfest being able to see him live for the first time," says Ms. Ware, who makes an effort to ensure the acts reflect homegrown Canadian talent.

"Just like Canadian actors, Canadian musicians have made a world of contributions to the industry in North America and beyond, and it's the right thing to do in terms of how we choose to support our artists. When you look at the combination of the two headliner bands, which are a treat for us and the event " 54-40 is a five-piece band and with Kim Mitchell we're able to celebrate a soloist. He has had a smashing career and it's a good balance."

Since the headliners were announced last week, Ms. Ware says feedback has exceeded their expectations " and has been positive from a wide range of ages, with many going back to revisit the artists' respective music catalogues for familiar and not-so-familiar tunes.

Other artists sharing the Ribfest playbill are It's All Been Done Before: A Tribute to the Barenaked Ladies, performing August 26 at

5.30 p.m.; Fleetwood Nicks and Practically Petty opens the entertainment on Saturday, August 27, at 12 noon, followed by The Beresfords at 2.45, and Tangent at 5.30 p.m.; and closing out Ribfest on August 28 are 2021 Aurora Teen Idol Ysabel Cattle at 12.45 p.m., 2022 Teen Idol Olivia Varma at 1.45, From the Hip at 2.45 p.m., and Fiddlestix at 5.15 p.m.

“Some people might recognize the bands, some might not, but every single band performing this weekend has been specifically selected, vetted, and screened and each band will do a top-notch show,” says Ms. Ware. “Whether it’s the headliners that really drives you and motivates you to come to Ribfest, I would equally challenge you to take in one of the other bands and time slots. You will definitely not be disappointed.”

For more information on this year's Ribfest, including hours, food vendors and a “ribbers”, visit aurora.ca/ribfest.

By Brock Weir
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