

Great Big Sea's Alan Doyle headlines Friday Hoedown

By Brock Weir

Great Big Sea's Alan Doyle will return to the Magna Hoedown stage, headlining the first night of York Region's biggest two-day party.

Mr. Doyle's return to Hoedown, where he first performed in 2016, was announced Thursday by Magna.

'Alan Doyle is no stranger to the Magna Hoedown stage, and is back by popular demand after performing three years ago,' say organizers. 'Doyle is a celebrated Canadian folk-rock musician who says he is 'the luckiest guy I have ever even heard of. This was all I ever wanted, a life in the music business, singing concerts.' Initially made famous with the band Great Big Sea, Doyle has gone on to have a successful career as a solo artist.

'In 2017, Doyle was named a Member of the Order of Canada 'for his contributions to the musical traditions of his home province and for his commitment to numerous local charitable initiatives.' Doyle's spirit of giving and generosity, along with his incredible musical talents, are a perfect match with what the Magna Hoedown is all about.'

Alan Doyle will take over the Hoedown stage on the evening of Friday, September 13, following the final round of the Magna Hoedown Showdown competition, showcasing up and coming Ontario talent. Hoedown's Friday night has a new twist this year with a Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival.

Tickets for the events, September 13 and 14, are on sale now and available online at www.hoedown.ca. Raffle tickets are also on sale from the 20 York Region and South Simcoe charities and non-profits that will share this year's Hoedown proceeds.

These partner organizations include Abuse Hurts (The Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness), Aurora FC, the Aurora Tigers, Autism Ontario York Region & Kerry's Place Autism Services, Big Brothers Big Sisters of York with Epilepsy York Region, Community Living Central York, Deaf Blind Ontario Services, Easter Seals Ontario, Hospice Georgina & the Georgina Arts Centre and Gallery, the Lake Simcoe Soccer Club, Learning Disabilities Association of York Region, the Literacy Council of York-Simcoe & Learning Centre for Georgina, Marquee Theatrical Productions, Newmarket Redmen, Pulsars Gymnastics Club, St. John Ambulance, the Food Bank of York Region, Victim Services of York Region, the Women's Centre of York Region, and York Pride Festival.

Saturday night's headliner is expected to be announced Monday, July 29.