

Sounds of generations will mark milestone anniversary



By Brock Weir

How many of you have a song you immediately associate with a particular happy memory?

Chances are, you all do? and this summer you will be able to relive those experiences, celebrating your own history, and the history this summer, as the characteristic rich sounds of vinyl ring out through the Aurora Community Centre (ACC).

‘We are going to dance like nobody is watching,’ says Aurora resident David Heard, a long-time vinyl enthusiast, whose vinyl-based pop art (and music spun from the records themselves) has been a mainstay of the Aurora Farmers’ Market for the last few seasons.

Now, he has taken his collection and devised a Canadian playlist of the generations, proposing to take over the ACC for a very unique dance party on July 22.

‘It has taken about four years to curate and plan this event,’ said Mr. Heard. ‘Mathematically, we say [the set list] cannot be duplicated.’

It is also an experience that can’t be duplicated, showcasing not only the history of Canadian pop music, but some of the Canadian pop milestones that happened right here in Aurora, from Gordon Lightfoot’s pressing of one of his hit records in a former studio just west of Yonge and Wellington, to some of the important Canadian bands that played the ACC itself when they were on tour.

‘Built in 1967, we don’t talk about the incredible history of that building,’ says Mr. Heard of the ACC. ‘We’re proposing a family event for all ages [featuring] a video produced with the Aurora Museum and Archives, and hopefully members of the community, so we can have this wonderful history on screen. The arena will be lit up with LED lights, patio lanterns and a dance floor.’

That’s not all: for the revellers, organizers plan on transforming the Lounge looking over the venerable ACC into a licensed venue with an authentic lounge feel for people to kick back, relax, and enjoy the spinning vinyl.

To add a touch of nostalgia, party-goers will be encouraged to ‘dress for their decades,’ so take the time to dust off your poodle skirts and bell bottoms, oil your leather jackets in a way that would make the Fonz jealous, and dig out those acid-washed jeans of the 80s.

All proceeds raised over the course of the event will benefit the Aurora-based Kerry’s Place Autism Services for the development of a ‘music motivation’ program.

‘We all know how music heals,’ says Mr. Heard.

Mr. Heard made his pitch to Council last week. It was warmly received by local lawmakers, who received his presentation and referred it to the Town’s Canada 150 Ad Hoc committee for further discussion.

‘It is so exciting and so Aurora,’ said Councillor Sandra Humfries. ‘I am really excited for what we can do to help get the word out. It is going to be a very local event, but I can see the attraction really spreading out, making this an amazing party with great music. I am just thrilled for this event.’

Added Councillor Harold Kim, ‘You have put your energies into a lot of projects and a lot of causes here in Aurora and I just want to congratulate you for getting the pulse of what the Town needs, and has needed at the right time and the right moment. You grab

the bull by the horns, and thank you for leading the charge on this. This is something pretty well everyone can coattail on.? Although the dance party is still in the planning stages, Mr. Heard told Council he is confident that everything will be going forward thanks to the input from municipal staff, particularly the staffers in the Park and Recreation Department.

?They have been impeccable in helping us get the doors open and taking down the hurdles,? said Mr. Heard. ?I have spoken to a lot of people in the community and gotten their input on the playlist. It's a lot like the CHUM charts. Some songs are going to get moved up. It is a four hour event and we can do 90 -100 songs, and I want to make sure it is the history of music and there is a lot of music history in this Town.?

So, what can you expect from the Councillors on July 22, assuming all the approvals go through?

?I'll be dressing in my disco outfit,? said Councillor Tom Mrakas.

Added Councillor Wendy Gaertner: ?I will be pulling on my bellbottoms.?