

Brant, Brittany

# MSS student competes tonight in Kingston's Teen Idol

*Intell*

By Jennifer Bell

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Brittany Brant can hold a room captive with her voice. This 15-year-old Moira Secondary School student — who heads off to the finals in the Kingston Teen Idol competition at St. Lawrence College this Saturday — sang for her classmates for the first time Thursday morning.

And they were amazed.

Brant, who hails from Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, is one of 20 finalists in the contest, a fundraiser for the Algonquin and Limestone Industry Education Council. She was chosen from 40 contestants in the show's semi-finals Oct. 18, and received the People's Choice Award at that event.

Moira Secondary principal Diane Fair received word from Kingston Teen Idol several days ago that Brant had advanced to the finals.

"We were very excited for her, and wanted to give the students an opportunity to hear her sing, so we organized a little assembly," Fair said. "We wanted to give her our support."

Brant's performance of Hero by Mariah Carey and The Greatest Love of All by Whitney Houston drew thunderous applause from more than 700 students and staff Thursday, followed by a standing ovation.

"I was nervous," Brant admitted following the performance. "It's different when you sing for strangers, but everyone here knows me. I think I did all right, though."

Singing since the age of five, Brant, who appeared in the Stirling Theatre's summer production of Anne of Green Gables and won the Quinte Teen Idol contest in 2002, will appear in Moira's production of Pirates of Penzance next May. She's the daughter of Marlin and Cathy Brant.

Fair said a bus donated by Quinte Mohawk Bus Lines will transport Moira students "who want to go to the competition and support Brittany."

The show runs from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at St. Lawrence College. Advance tickets are \$20 and can be ordered by calling 1-866-276-6601 or purchased at the door for \$25.



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Brittany Brant

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