

Katie Chapman, first county Idol, returning for concert

By BOB OWEN
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Northumberland Idol, Katie Chapman is returning to Colborne this summer, and she's bringing her gift of song along with her.

The Cramahe Township native will be performing on August 4 at Colborne United Church with her cousin, singer/songwriter Amy Nodwell. The 17-year-old Miss Nodwell has ties here too. She's the granddaughter of Harold Harnden. The two will be backed by Cramahe music teacher, Heather Stubbs at this benefit for cancer. Two of Ms. Stubbs' students, Mitzi and Skylar Barth will also perform.

The concert, billed 'Singing for a Cure' will feature a little of everything, from classical to Broadway and pop, with the featured singers showing off some of the talent that has made them both award winners. Admission is a minimum donation of \$10.

In September, Katie hopes to be walking in the Weekend to End Breast Cancer, a 60 km marathon walk that starts Sept. 11. She needs to raise \$2,000 to qualify and has about \$500 now. Anyone wishing to support her can call her Cramahe home number (905) 355-2148 or go on the walk website - www.endcancer.ca and pledge on her behalf.

On August 16, the busy soprano will re-join Amy to provide back up vocals in the 21st Annual Guelph Hillside Festival. The event draws a host of regional and big-name performers and is billed as a "community celebration of music, dance, and the spoken word".

In September, Katie will return to Brock University for her final year of a four-year music program, specializing in voice.

A realist, Katie knows that careers in popular music are a chance occurrence. They also depend on the artist living in an urban environment, and Katie knows she's not a city girl. She also feels that her voice is better suited to the classical repertoire she has been studying. There is huge competition in that field, so she's banking on a teaching career in music and drama, and using her talents in local musical theatre.

Her background in high school at ENSS was largely in that venue. Katie had a lead role in *Evita* in 2000 and performed as well in *Oliver* in 1998. She played a part in *Razzmajazz* too, before graduating and moving to further her education in St. Catharines.

Although the April 24 win in the Northumberland Idol Contest hasn't yielded any

tangible rewards, it has brought her some 'fame', and it has beefed up her portfolio. Ironically, she still hasn't heard her award-winning performance in the contest. And she wonders what might have been had she been able to enter the Canada-wide Idol contest. It was too late to enter by the time the Northumberland contest had been completed.

Katie smiles when she recalls that while waitressing at Swiss Chalet in St. Catharines, she was approached by a couple who called her by name. They were from Brighton and had seen her in the semi finals.

She passed a little boy in a major department store who turned to his mom and identified her.

People she hasn't seen in a long time have congratulated her.

She's also been noticed by the President of Brock University. Twice, David Atkinson has used Katie and pianist Julie Lawlor to provide music for fundraising and charity dinners. She's on the bill again in October.

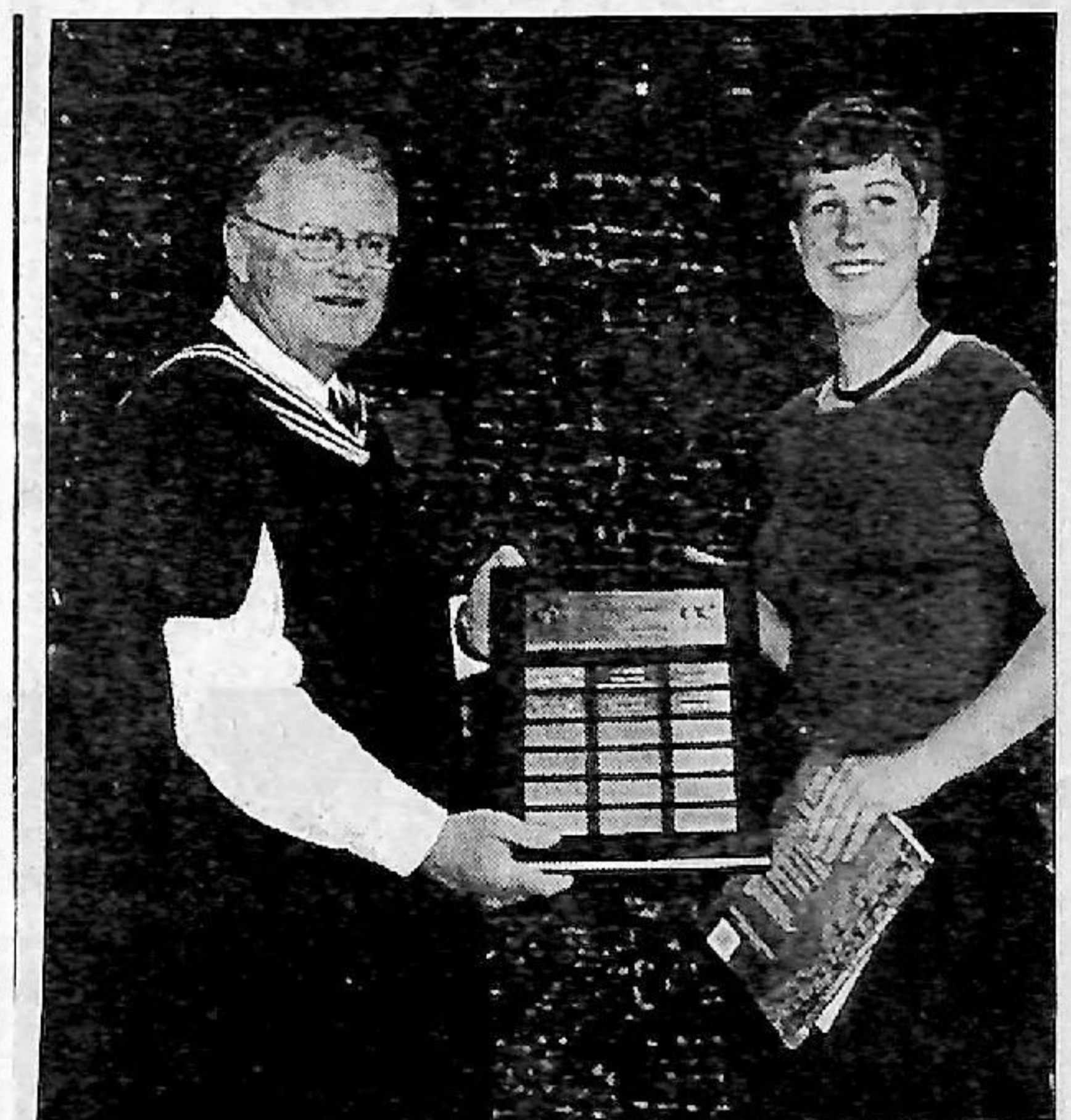
That's not surprising when you consider that she obtained the highest standing of anyone in Ontario trying her level of vocal exam at the Royal Conservatory during her grade 12 year.

Back at university this fall, Katie will continue teaching voice and piano at the Welland Music Academy, as she did last year.

As well, this year she will be performing in Tuesday noon concerts and may be one of two performers in a one-act opera titled 'The Telephone'. Her music teacher, Debra Linton, is working to put that together for a performance near Christmas.

And, of course, she will be getting married. Katie became engaged last August, but a wedding date is still to be set.

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Cramahe Township's Amy Meekes was rewarded for her academic and personal skills. Amy took home the Canadian Federation of University Women Award for character and academic standing, the Brighton Horticultural Award, and the Principal's Award for student leadership.

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