

Local

SHELTER VALLEY FOLK FESTIVAL SHOWCASE TONIGHT!

Good and lovely discoveries to be made at showcase

Cobourg Chronicle July 31/05

It's time for Northumberland folk music fans to get their ears to the ground and take their lawn chairs to the street. Next Thursday, July 31, at 6 p.m., the Shelter Valley Folk Festival will host its fourth annual Songwriters Showcase, an open-air event celebrating 10 talented local songwriters, during Downtown Cobourg's 40th Anniversary Sidewalk Sale.

Audience members are invited to vote for their favourite songwriters based on the quality of the lyrics and melody, originality and presentation. Combined with input from a three-member jury, results will be tallied and three artists will be selected to perform on the folk festival's Labour Day weekend Sunday main stage. Results of the showcase will be announced Friday morning, Aug. 1, on the Festival Web site.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Good Lovelies were one of three Shelter Valley Folk Festival Songwriters Showcase winners last year. Today, Caroline Brooks of Whitby, Kerri Ough of Port Hope, and Sue Passmore of Cobourg have left their day jobs behind and are touring Canada on a dizzying fast-paced rags-to-riches tour.

This year's showcase attracted 35 applicants from across Northumberland County and beyond, as far east as Kingston and Belleville and as far north as Peterborough. Recorded submissions came in on tape, CD and MP3, and were accompanied by song lyrics.

"Some lyrics came handwritten on scraps of paper, others were liner notes in professional CDs," said Aengus Finnan, the festival's artistic director. "And some songs were recorded on home stereos, while others were obviously done in studio."

It's easy to see the excitement on Mr. Finnan's face as he imagines young songwriters chasing their dreams.

"In the end, the format or performance make no difference. The showcase is about the songs. Are the lyrics strong? Is the melody unique? The showcase is intended to encourage excellence, talent, and craft. Yes, we do celebrate the finest of those who apply by sending them to the festival, but the showcase is a concert, not a competition."

This year's featured songwriters include: Stacey Bannon of Orono, David Curtis of Brighton, Joe Forster of Cobourg (now residing in Kitchener), Shamus Hannah, Stuart MacDonald, Jim Martin and Kody Paul, all of Cobourg, Kim Rogers of Peterborough, Mike Wallace of Campbellford, and the songwriting duo of Dylan Todhunter and Denholm Whale of Bewdley and Port Hope respectively.

Jurors include Mr. Finnan, a member of local media and a music industry representative. Audience members will each be given a ballot and asked to vote based on melody and lyrics rather than showmanship or entertainment value.

"We like to emphasize an appreciation at the audience level for the craft of song writing," Mr. Finnan said.

Last year, more than 200 music fans

brought their lawn chairs to downtown Cobourg to take in the concert. It's hoped an even larger audience will come this year.

The Shelter Valley Folk Festival is a registered federal charity that presents a Labour Day Weekend family event (August 29 to 31 this year) and a new community outreach initiative called 'Artists in the Schools.'

Currently in its fifth year, the festival celebrates music, juried art, wellness, sustainable living and harvest food in what has been described as a "gentle, humanistic, environmentally attuned and abundantly caring" manner.

Festival tickets are available at 48 King St. West in Cobourg, online at www.sheltervalley.com or through the ticket hotline at 1-866-612-SVFF or 905-355-1244.

New volunteers and financial donors are always welcome.

— SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Forthcoming Marriage



Friends and Family are invited to join in celebrating the marriage of Jessica Westbrook and Kyle Seleski at the following events:
Dance at Cobourg Best Western, Saturday August 2 at 8:30 p.m.
BBQ at Bride's parents, 189 Brimley Rd South, Grafton, Sunday August 3 at 11 am.
Hope you can join us!

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