



Submitted Photo

Auction Barn Jamboree organizers Gary Warner and Linda Grills bookend two of their star attractions for the eighth annual event later this month: Rhonda Vincent and Gene Watson.

This year's Jamboree brings a whole week of music

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COLBORNE - The eighth annual Auction Barn Jamboree offers its usual outstanding weekend of country music at the Keeler Centre in Colborne.

But this year, if you count in the four extra concerts leading up to the big weekend, there will be more than a week's worth of music in all.

- Organizers are planning a benefit performance Aug. 25 for the new stage fund at the Keeler Centre. Taking the Keeler Centre stage for the 8 p.m. dance will be Mike Pollard and the Auction Barn Jamboree Band. Tickets are \$10.

- A full night of bluegrass comes to the Keeler Centre Aug. 27, with Rhonda Vincent and The Rage, Bill White and White Pine, the Tebworth Brothers (seven-year-old Marshal and nine-year-old Wyatt) and the Sweetgrass band. Tickets for the 7 p.m. show are \$35 in advance, and home-made dinners will be available for \$12, starting at 4 p.m.

- The Queen of Bluegrass and the Golden Voice of Nashville (Rhonda Vincent and Gene Watson) perform Aug. 28 and 29 at 7 p.m. at the Keeler Centre. Tickets are \$35.

But that's just the beginning. The following day kicks off the four-day weekend of the actual Auction Barn Jam-

boree.

It's a Thursday-to-Sunday long weekend, said Gary Warner (who organizes the event each year with Linda Grills), so that Monday can be left as a travel day for some 300 campers who travel to the jamboree but must return home.

Between campers and walk-in traffic, he said, there could be several thousand people at the Keeler Centre.

It's a different line-up each day.

- On Aug. 30, host Scott Gartshore will introduce Gavin Gartshore, Greg Hannah, Brad Scott, Bill Ritchie, Maryanne Cunningham and Arron Henry.

- On Aug. 31, host Warner will introduce Lisa Hart, Michael Warren, Fred Lewis, Naomi Bristow, Aaron Muir and Rick Loucks.

- On Sept. 1, host Charlie Kitts will introduce Arlene Quinn, Henry Norwood, Darlene Thibault, Bruce Golden, Dale Ducharmes and Dan Paul Rogers.

- On Sept. 2, host Warner will introduce Lauren Hall, Paul Weber, Mary Rowan, Wendell Ferguson, Leah Durelle and Mike Pollard.

Each evening finishes off with open-mic time, which winds up at 1 a.m. Thursday through Saturday night and at 11 p.m. Sunday evening.

Also on Sunday, a morning gospel show will be hosted by Quinn, with

Thibault, Rowan, Cunningham, Ducharmes and Joe Saunders.

Again this year, Taylor's Custom Meats and Catering will be on hand to provide home-cooked dinners for \$12, available Thursday through Sunday.

Warner credits the organization behind the event, as well as the music, with its success.

"Linda and myself work hard at it, as it is a hobby and a labour of love, with the emphasis put on providing the best show they can get for the money they pay," Warner said.

"We are one of the least-expensive jamborees around, and the only one that provides four nights of class entertainers — beginning Thursday night running through and including Sunday — one of the few inside jamborees, and an excellent facility with catered meals, lots of room for dancing on a nice floor, always a new show for the most part (meaning new line-ups of entertainers not already seen on the circuit), great stage bands, open mic time," he listed.

"And people just enjoy that and keep coming back."

A weekend pass costs \$50, and there are \$20 daily passes available for Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

For information on the jamboree, or on tickets to the big four shows that precede the jamboree, contact Warner at 905-355-2106 or gwarner@eagle.ca.

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