

GIRL POW-R pop rock all girls band to perform at rib fest this weekend

KATHRYN BOYLE
kboyle@thefp.ca

A pop rock group consisting of 10 to 15 year olds will be taking the stage this weekend.

The group, called GIRL POW-R, will be singing and dancing to original music, and covers, at the Georgetown Rib Fest this Saturday.

GIRL POW-R was formed this past April, and by next month, they will have performed in over 40 shows and have memorized 24 songs and choreography. Of the 14 girls, some of them sing, some of them play instruments, and all of them dance.

A key message of the group is empowerment and being strong in social situations - more specifically, bullying.

Dawn Van Dam, the founder of GIRL POW-R, said the group started after watching her children go through bullying at school.

"My own kids were bullied, and I saw them suffer through that," she explained. "I really think there's a void in the music industry for a young group who can go out and perform, so I wanted to put together a group of girls who have tremendous talent but also are also kind and giving, and who can spread the word about different issues."

Each group member has a social issue they care about. Some of them include healthy eating, human rights, and anti-child labour. They hail from Windsor to St. Catharines, to Oshawa and Newmarket. Brynn Swenarchuk, one of the members, is from Acton.

The group's sound is pop rock, and they have a goal of inspiring others to be their best. The girls create their own songs, as well as choreography, and will sometimes do covers, but with some lyrical changes.

In July, the group was chosen



Laura Dinato photo

GIRL POW-R members Brynn Swenarchuk, left, and Elizabeth Ellsworth perform at a Canada Day celebration last July.

for a number of Canada Day celebrations in the Toronto area, and have been booked for 15 shows with the organizers of the rib

fest.

The group promises great music and fun for the whole family. "It's a really great opportuni-

ty for them," Van Dam said. "They meet people who would not have known them, first of all. Second, they do a lot of audience interaction and participation, so they try and get people up on their feet and clapping and dancing, and that's always a tremendous amount of fun and a great memory for everyone."

The girls will be at the Georgetown Fairgrounds this Saturday, for the Georgetown Rib Fest event, and are set to begin their set at 11 a.m. They will play until 12:30 p.m.

"It's important for kids today to find their voice and speak up for what they believe in and find a social cause they are passionate about and reach out to kids their age," Laura Dinato, media relations manager, said. "It's a tough world, and these kids need people to look up to and they need encouragement and they need to know they can make a difference, even if it's just a small difference."



Contributed by Bill Culp Product

Joe Passion co-stars as Jimmy Buffet in "Surfin' Safari."

'Surfin' Safari' hits John Elliott Theatre Saturday night

Get ready to have some Fun, Fun, Fun when Surfin' Safari: The Ultimate Beach Party Show comes to John Elliott Theatre on Saturday, Aug. 19 at 8 p.m.

True to the beach party theme of the show, Surfin'

Safari features tributes to Jimmy Buffett, Frankie Avalon, the Ventures, Jan & Dean and the legendary Beach Boys, backed by an all-star live band.

Throughout the performance, the crowd will be

encouraged to clap their hands, sing along and dance, with an opportunity to meet the cast after the show.

Song highlights include Surfer Girl, Margaritaville, Venus, Wipeout, Lit-

tle Old Lady from Pasadena, Good Vibrations, It's Five O'Clock Somewhere, Walk Don't Run, Help Me Rhonda, Kokomo and Surfin' U.S.A. among the many audience favourites.

Tickets are on sale for \$39 each and are available by calling 905-877-3700, or they can be picked up at the theatre box office located at 9 Church St. or online at www.haltonhills.ca/theatre.

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