

York hosts first country music awards

BY AMANDA PERSICO
apersico@yrmg.com

Monday was a night of firsts with the inaugural Country Music Association of Ontario awards.

The sold-out event took place at the Flato Markham Theatre and was hosted by Canadian country music legend Charlie Major.

"There is a lot of talent out there," he said. "And a lot of those are from right here in Ontario."

The night's first award went to Marylyne and Brad Stella of the Stellas for best group or duo of the year.

The Whitby couple has written and sang country-pop songs for more than 15 years and toured with the likes of Johnny Reid and Terri Clark.

The duo recently signed on to tour with the Zac Brown Band this summer.

"This is incredible," the mother of two said.

Backstage, the winning jitters didn't die down, either.

"When I heard our name, I was like, 'What?'" she said. "I'm still shocked. This is the coolest prize. It's a piece of history. The very first CMAO award, I still can't believe it."

The award is a silver star hoisted on a platform.

And it is fitting the Stellas took home the accolade, since stella is Italian for star, she added.

Prior to accepting the award, the pair was backstage rehearsing their lines as presenters for an award later in the show.

"They called our name and I was ready to present the award to someone else."

The duo releases their next single this summer with a new album to follow in the fall.

It was the Good Brothers of Richmond Hill and Newmarket who pre-

► Go to yorkregion.com to see the list of winners.

sented the first prize of the night.

"We are the first cowboy hats on stage tonight," said Bruce Good, who is also the association board's second vice-president, adding it was an honour to present the first award.

The association started several years ago and the awards took about a year's worth of work, Mr. Good said.

The inaugural ceremony awarded artists, albums and songs between 2009 and 2012.

"I woke up for the first time in weeks with nothing to do," he said. "The board has worked so hard. An awards ceremony is definitely in the cards for next year."

Mr. Good, along with his twin brother, Brian, and younger brother, Larry, have been on the country music scene for more than 40 years.

The packed theatre was privy to a lineup of talented performers including Deric Ruttan, Michelle Wright, Jason Blaine, Charlie Major, Small Town Pistols, Kira Isabella as well as special performances from Greg Keelor of Blue Rodeo together with Travis Good of the Sadies' and the Good Brothers.

"This show is about provincial pride," Mr. Good said. "Many people think the heart of Canadian country music is Calgary or Edmonton, but a lot of new talent is coming out of Ontario. We have a hat full of artists, here."

Over the past several years, the association has established outreach programs for Ontario country singers and songwriters, hosted country music panels featuring agents and producers, and hosted demo-ramas, where artists are professionally critiqued on their demo tapes.

DO THE MATH
ADVERTISE IN THE

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune



NEWSPAPERS CANADA

19, Stouffville Sun-Tribune ■ www.yorkregion.com ■ Thursday, May 30, 2013

SALE ENDS JUNE 16



NEW

2 For \$20

OR \$11.97 Each
All Sizes Only, 17.99-21.99
RedHead® Ringer
Pocket Tee
1970842

10 Colors Available



35%

\$12.97 Reg. 20.99

Bass Pro Shops®
Rugged Outdoor Watches
Each watch comes in
a handsome gift tin.
1699206

6 Styles to Choose From



25%

\$19.97 Reg. 26.95

Bass Pro Shops® Montana
Leather Collection

- Embossed full-grained leather
- Distressed finish, quality stitching
- Comes in gift tin

More Styles to Choose From

FREE FAMILY ACTIVITIES

EVERY TUESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY

FAMILY SUMMER CAMP

JUNE 8 - JULY 14

FREE BB SHOOTING RANGE!

FREE WORKSHOPS!

FREE PHOTO!*

FREE CATCH & RELEASE POND!*

AND MORE!

*Activities available on weekdays only

See store or visit basspro.com/summertime for details

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN a fishing trip with Dave Mercer!

June 8-16

See store for details.

No mail, phone, internet, COD orders, or dealers, please. Bass Pro Shops® reserves the right to limit quantities. Please be aware that descriptive, typographic, or photographic errors may sometimes occur, and are subject to correction.

VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. General merchandise prices in our stores, online, and on television will vary. See terms, conditions, and restrictions. ©2013 Bass Pro Shops, Inc.

One Bass Pro Mills Drive
Vaughan, ON L4K 5W4
(905) 761-4000
Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-9pm, Sun 10am-7pm

basspro.com

Save in any Season!

Call about **Our Energy-Efficient Complete Systems**



TEMPSTAR
Heating and Cooling Products

QUALITY YOU CAN FEEL™

tempstar.com

- High Efficiency two stage central air conditioners up to 19 SEER. Two Stage Variable and Single Stage ECM motor models available.
- Up to 97% AFUE efficient modulating
- Total year round comfort and energy savings
- Outstanding No Hassle Replacement* limited warranty and 10 year parts limited warranty protection*



Ken Smurthwaite HEATING LTD. Est. 1978

6204 Bethesda Sd. Rd.
Stouffville, Ontario L4A 7X3
(905) 646-1428 (905) 852-5934
kensmurthwaiteheating.com

8F11102