

# Amber Crump back for another shot at Hoedown glory

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\$20,000 and earning a performance on the Hoedown stage on Sept. 17 when country singer Paul Brandt headlines.

Among those named worthy by the judges panel, were Stouffville's Amber Crump, Newmarket's Patricia Villegas and Keswick's Mac Shepherd.

"It was so much fun and there were so many people enjoying the music, it's just a great experience," Crump said of the afternoon performance at the Ribfest. "I have so much respect for the talent in this competition."

This is Crump's second kick at the can as she placed third in a previous showdown competition. It was the encouragement and

the enjoyment she got from the last competition that spurred her to try again for the title.

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Top prize isn't too shabby either with a package valued at over \$20,000 that includes cash, a guitar and case, performing on the same Hoedown stage as headliner Paul Brandt and an ultimate artist package. Crump said it would help her continue recording her

AP that she is currently fundraising for.

The local singer has been working on her talent since she hit high school and has overcome her shy nature to get up on stage.

"I think my passion for music is greater than my shyness," she laughed. "I do have a quiet and soft voice but I don't necessarily think you need to be big and loud to express yourself through music."

Next, Crump and the other contestants will be coached by celebrity judge Beverley Mahood before taking the stage on the first day of Magna Hoedown with the goal of being named the victor and securing a performance in the following night's Hoedown.

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