

## Maple leaf melodies at waterfront

Local Scene: Orillia set to celebrate Canada Day at Couchiching Beach Park

By John Swartz Special to The Packet

Posted 3 months ago

Whatever you do, Friday there isn't anywhere else to be but in Couchiching Beach Park for Canada Day.

The Wheely Great Parade starts at 10:30 a.m. I supposed someone forgot to mention to the organizers Friday is a holiday. I don't know about you, but on holidays, I tend to not set an alarm clock.

If it's got wheels, this parade is for you, decorated, of course. Registration is at 9:30 a.m.

The main parade along Mississauga Street to the park starts at noon.

There will be plenty of music. On stage one, or the main stage as they like to call it, Tool Shed gets things going. Following that are a couple of slots for storytellers and then something called For the Birds (no, city council is not doing a song and dance, especially on a holiday, even a Monday holiday).

At 4 p.m., The Jimmy Stone Radio Show performs, followed by a bluegrass band, the Barley Juice String Band, at 5 p.m. The latter played at the last sidewalk sale downtown. I missed them, but everyone I spoke to who did see them said they were very good.

Now what you might find amazing and a bit of a perspective enhancer is that each of the members of Barley Juice also play in some the bands that follow them. That would be Peter Turns Pirate, Adrenehrome and Like Animals.

At the AquaTheatre, Tapps Performing Arts is on at 3 p.m. followed by the Orillia Silver band at 4. Gospel Elvis and the North York Concert Band follow.

The bandstand has Dismount Westmount at 10 a.m. This is Daniel Bazinet, whose CD I reviewed a couple months ago. If you are up, he's worth checking out. Following Daniel on the hour are Serendipity Road, Viceroy Bill and Gary Hobson, and Eric McCauley. The Citizenship Court happens at 2 p.m. and The Barley Juice String Band welcomes our newest Canadians at 3.

Stick around to hear Aaron Mangoff, he's good. Gospel Elvis follows at 5 p.m.

There's a ton of other stuff happening and of course at the end of it all — we're gonna blow it all up. Well, not quite, but the fireworks will start when it gets dark.

Conditional love

The summer theatre season at the Opera House is moving on to the second production I Love You You're Perfect Now Change. Before I get into that, we must pause a moment and celebrate the first play, Sexy Laundry. I thought it was hilarious and apparently so did others.

Dave Campbell, one of the producers of Sexy Laundry told me that they tripled ticket sales over the first production last summer. Not bad for Season Two for the production company, Laughoutloud. He also told me that three of the plays from last season were also performed elsewhere with the same casts we saw last summer. We're becoming a proving ground for theatre, or as one of the cast members joked, New Haven Conn., where Broadway bound plays get their training wings.

Speaking of the current cast, three of the quartet of players (Michael Hogeveen, Kristi Frank and Jane Miller were in two of last summer's plays. Micheal Querin is the fourth.)

I haven't seen I Love You yet (plan to tonight), but the short bit I did see looks good, and it sounds like it's got a funny script.

There is a performance Friday (you can also catch them tomorrow at the park for a few excerpted scenes) and continues to July 28. There are 2 p.m. matinees on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. performances on Wednesdays and Thursdays, with additional evening performances July 8, 16 and 22.

Also happening at the Opera House in July are Duck Soup productions for the kids on July 12, 19 and 26. The legion has The Ed Sullivan Show in for a fundraiser on July 23 and Stuart McLean does two shows July 29 and 30. All of those are in Gord's Room since I Love You has the Studio Theatre tied up.

Mariposa headliner

The Mariposa Folk Festival is July 8, 9 and 10. Josh Ritter headlines the main stage on Friday night with the Ilders opening, followed by Yukon Blonde, The Beauties, Elisapie Isaac and Jim Bryson and the Weakerthans.

Saturday night, Emmylou Harris headlines with David Myles, Adonis Puentes, 3 Gars Su'l Sofa, John McDermott and a surprise guest appearing before her.

Sunday night is a trip back in time with Peter Yarrow. Peter was, of course, one third of Peter, Paul and Mary. It's too bad Garnet Rogers is opening because he does one song that is magical in the dark. Oh well. He's followed by Amelia Curran, Ron Hynes and Lunch at Allen's.

There's a deal on right now for weekend passes for young people ages 17 to 24. Only \$55! Those aged 13 to 16 pay only \$12, and anyone younger than that gets in free when they are accompanied by an adult.

For you old folks, \$105 is still a good deal for the weekend with the lineup above, and the pub, and the daytime workshops.

Rants! Raves! Info? Write John at [watchthisproductions@encode.com](mailto:watchthisproductions@encode.com).