

Platinum Blonde returns to Ribfest stage next month on 30th anniversary tour

By Brock Weir

Platinum Blonde has been entertaining Canadians for over three decades, and now their 30th Anniversary Tour will hit Aurora next month as the band headlines Aurora Ribfest.

Platinum Blonde, along with Rik Emmett & Resolution 9, were announced as the Ribfest headliners on Wednesday night at Concerts in the Park. Rik Emmett & Resolution 9 will take the stage at 9 p.m. on Friday, August 24, while Platinum Blonde will take over the next evening at the same time.

"We're very, very excited to have our headliners," says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. "Both bands have been heavily requested by the community. When Platinum Blonde played in 2014, it was a massive hit and I have had queries on whether they are going to return ever since. We are very glad to invite them back to the Ribfest. [Fittingly], this is also their 30th anniversary tour, so I know their show is going to be even more dynamic when we had them previously.

"With Rik Emmett & Resolution 9, there has been tremendous buzz about him and we've had requests, so we were very fortunate to be able to get into his schedule, which is quite tight. Since the news was announced on Wednesday, it has been really positively received, which is obviously something that makes us happy.

In addition to the two headliner bands, Ribfest, which takes place at Machell Park from August 24 - 26, will also feature the semifinals for the Hoedown Showdown, Magna's search for Canada's next great country music star, as well as a performance from The Good Brothers on the Sunday.

"With the classic rock, which we have chosen to go with, we do continually hear the memories of when so and so saw them in their high school or in their 20s," says Ms. Ware. "It really is a trip down memory lane for the people who will get a chance to see them at this event. With Rik Emmett and his strong reputation for the many decades that he performed and was a vital band member with Triumph, now that he has his own band and is creating his own new music. We're in for a double treat with that concert because there will be songs from Triumph as well as some new material with Resolution 9."

Ribfest 2018 will be open free of charge for every operating hour, including the headlining acts, which were previously subject to a purchased wristband rule. The age of majority will, however, be in force on the Saturday from 8 - 11 p.m.

For more information, visit aurora.ca/ribfest.