

Showdown was ?thrilling? at Ribfest

Please allow me to extend congratulations to the organizers and volunteers at Magna, whose invaluable efforts at the Hoedown Showdown contributed to the Hoedown's efforts in raising \$567,000 for charities and non-profit groups.

I am very pleased that the Town of Aurora could pool our resources at this year's Ribfest to host this fantastic talent search and showcase some of the gifted performing artists within our community and beyond.

The Hoedown Showdown was extremely well executed, from the event reception staff, to the sound and stage crew. The great venue, as well as the quality and diversity of the contestants, was truly amazing, culminating in a very professional program.

I would like to thank Steve Hinder, Mayor Dawe, Belinda Stronach and Chris Seldon for their inspired work as judges. I would particularly like to note the great level of expertise displayed by Chris Seldon, which proved extremely valuable to all who performed.

I would also like to give credit to Beverly Mahood, who performed admirably as Master of Ceremonies.

The atmosphere of the event was thrilling. By the time the showdown came down to the final three contestants on Sunday, the level of excitement was palpable and the Ribfest crowd swelled to more than 2,000 people.

Hayley Palmer and her team deserve a lot of credit for bringing this great initiative from a concept to an outstanding production. As a participant, I can assure you that each of us felt part of an extraordinary opportunity.

Congratulations once again, for a great partnering that showcased not just our local talented residents, but those from across the GTA as well.

I hope this is an event we can look forward to next year.

Councillor John Abel

Aurora