

Loyalist student's got talent

Brighton resident takes part in entertainment auditions of Canada's Got Talent

By Tristan Kong

If you missed your chance to audition for *Canada's Got Talent* recently, you can learn from one local young man's experience of his audition.

Second-year student from the community justice service program, Josh Logan, 23, from Brighton, took his chance to apply for the *Canada's Got Talent*'s audition in Toronto.

"I went on the website and applied right away," Logan said when he found out about the audition tour that was happening in Toronto last fall.

Logan found his talent at a young age. "I've played music my whole life, since I was three," Logan said. "I got into it seriously when I was 10, started playing saxophone and learned how to read music. Then I started playing a large variety of different instruments."

On the day of the audition, Logan was a little nervous. "I woke up with a cold, which sucked. I had to focus on the performance and not let the sickness get to me," Logan said. "When we got closer, I got more quiet, thinking about how it was going to go."

With his guitar, he was going to play *If heaven wasn't so far away* by Justin Moore but had to change the song. "I woke up sick, sore throat, stuffy nose...when I got to the venue and I practiced the song..." Logan explained, and he decided to change the song to *Match Box 20 - 3 AM*. "I was able to use the scratchiness in my throat for the song so it worked out well considering the circumstances."

Logan learned after receiving an email

that he did not make it but said he was neither mad nor upset because he knew many people who had auditioned had much more talent than him. "The only advice I can give is to go out and have fun," Logan said.

Stephanie Wightman, Logan's fiancé, was proud of him. "Joshua is passionate about it. He sings about things that matter and things of interest. He has a great voice and has been doing this since he was young," Wightman said. "I felt happy and anxious for him... hoping he would do awesome, and give his very best."

Logan explained the lineup was ridiculous, maybe 600 people. "If you watch the American show, it was very similar to that. People were cheering and enthusiastic."

The Citytv series is launching a nationwide search to find Canada's most talented performers. A casting call is going out to singers, dancers, comedians or anyone else who thinks they have a talent to share.

Canada's Got Talent premieres on Citytv this spring after hosting auditions in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver, Halifax, Montreal and Toronto this past fall.

When selected, performers will perform in front of a live studio audience and a panel of judges where they will compete for the top prize of \$100,000 and a Las Vegas venue performance.

Citytv announced earlier in October the host and judges for *Canadian's Got Talent*. Opera singer Measha Brueggergosman, songwriter Stephan Moccio and Emmy and Tony Award-winning Canadian icon Martin Short will be judges, along with current co-host Dina Pugliese from Breakfast Television Toronto.

Pugliese was not available for an interview, but sent a message to the Pioneer via Twitter. "I am a huge fan of reality TV and love to have fun so this was a perfect fit. The talent across our country is out-



Photo by Melchizedek Maquino

Josh Logan, 23, second-year student in the Community and Justice Services Worker program at Loyalist College, has been playing music since he was 3 years old.

standing I am honoured to be a part of it all."

Who will be a winner of Canada's Got Talent? Stay tuned....

Down With Webster to rock Belleville

Band will feature songs from new album

By Meagan Pecjak

Down With Webster is making its way across Canada and the United States, touring to promote their new album, *Time to Win Volume II*.

Belleville is one of the earlier shows that Down With Webster will be playing. This won't be their first time in Belleville, said Cameron Hunter, who is one of the rappers in the band.

"Last time was crazy. I did not expect that," said Hunter.

Andy Forgie, the spokesman for the Empire Theatre, said he expects a "very enthusiastic, and high energy performance."

Hunter said he looks forward to new elements that they have added both musically and performance wise.

"Expect a lot of the new record. Expect high energy, cool new things possibly onstage that look cool and make the show look cool," said Hunter.

According to their Facebook page, Down With Webster was formed for a talent show during the band's junior high year.

They have come a long way since then and have produced two albums, *Time to Win Volume I*, and *Time to Win Volume II*. *Volume II* was released Oct. 2, 2011.

"We are playing our new record so all the songs are still so new to us and we still are not sick of them," Hunter said.

Their music is described as hip-hop, alternative with songs that also fit into the rock and rap genre.

When it comes to the name of the band, Hunter said "the name means absolutely nothing and I know that's a disappointment but, again when you name your band when you are 12 or 13 you tend to come up with weird shit."

He continued by saying that it was really just a name that was "catchy" to them and their peers and that it just stuck.

'Expect a lot of the new record. Expect high energy, cool new things possibly onstage that look cool and make the show look cool!'

Down With Webster band member Cameron Hunter

Down With Webster offers "all styles of music. They kind of fuse it together," said Forgie.

"It's really fun to get up onstage and play these songs that we spend so many hours in the studio making," Hunter said. "Nobody will probably be sitting in their seats," added Forgie.

Loyalist College student Andrew Swainson is in his first-year of media experience. He said "hopefully it is great," when referring to the upcoming show.

"They (Down With Webster) are really good and pretty much top notch," said Swainson.

Swainson, who has been to two other shows in Kingston, said the venue there is better but that the show in Belleville should still be good.

"They didn't pick the greatest place to have it," said Swainson.

Forgie said the Empire Theatre is expecting a "full house for sure" and that there is a lot of excitement around this show.

Swainson said that he knows of at least 20 or more people from the college who are going to the show.

Bands like Down With Webster bring a "jolt of young enthusiasm" to the Empire Theatre, said Forgie.

"It opens our doors to a younger demographic."

"Most of our shows are for mid to late 30's," said Forgie when it came to the age range of viewers at the theatre.

Down With Webster plays at the Empire theatre on Jan. 24, at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the box office or online.

Play treats audience to a few scares

Belleville Theatre Guild first production of new year an edge-of-the-seat thriller

By Topher Seguin

The Belleville Theatre Guild's first production of the new year, *Wait Until Dark*, promises to make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up straight.

The play, written by Frederick Knott and first performed on Broadway in 1966, was later made into a movie in 1967 starring Audrey Hepburn.

It is about a blind housewife named Susy Hendrix, played by Robin Everhardas, who is harassed by three con men, played by Al Zaback, Jean-Paul Thibeau and Roli Tipper.

The trio then begins searching for heroin that was hidden in a doll and mistakenly transported from Canada to Greenwich Village in New York City by Hendrix's husband Sam, played by Mike Leeming, as a favour for a woman who has since been murdered.

Things get a little tricky when the trio attempts to persuade Susy into thinking her husband has been smuggling drugs, and that the only way to help him is to give them the doll. Little do they know that Susy had already given the doll to Gloria, a little girl in the apartment upstairs.

Also appearing in the cast as police officers are Francine Bouma and Robert Coultis.

"We've been practising since mid-November, and I think it's going pretty great so far," said Thibeau, just after rehearsing the first act.

Like all of the other productions performed during the Belleville Theatre Guild's 60th anniversary season, *Wait*



Photo by Topher Seguin

Susy, played by Robin Everhardas (left), is harassed by a trio of unsavory men portrayed by (from left) Jean-Paul Thibeau, Al Zaback and Roli Tipper in Belleville Theatre Guild's production of *Wait Until Dark*, directed by Steve Forrester. The play runs from Feb. 2 to Feb. 18.

Until Dark is a favourite from the guild's archives, and promises to keep you on the edge of your seat as you find yourself cheering silently for Susy.

"It's a remarkable piece of work, and I'm looking forward to seeing it on stage," said director Steve Forrester, who hasn't done many thrillers in the

past. "Everyone's been fantastic. It's one of the nicest groups I've ever worked with."

"I don't want to say I'm hoping to make the audience wet themselves, but if everyone likes it as much as I do, the hairs on the back of their necks are bound to stand on end."

Wait Until Dark runs from Feb. 2 to Feb. 18 at The Pinnacle Playhouse, located at 256 Pinnacle St. There are 13 performances, including two Sunday matinees. Tickets are \$18. Contact www.bellevilletheatreguild.ca or call the box office at 613-967-1442 to order.

Rockfest coming to Empire Square

By Rhea Munroe

Pull out your air guitars and get ready to rock, Belleville. This July, Rockfest brings you the best and the originals of rock 'n' roll.

Rockfest will be taking place in Empire Square, from July 26 to July 28.

The official lineup includes great classic rock bands such as George Thorogood and the Destroyers and Downchild Blues Band who will play on Thursday, July 26. Boston with 54-40 will perform Friday, July 27, and the Steve Miller Band and Chris Caddell and the Wreckage will be playing on Saturday, July 28.

Mark Rashotte, the man responsible for this year's Rockfest lineup explained that "each year it's been more and more heavily weighted towards classic rock. Only in the last few years have we been having people like 3 Doors Down. It's aimed at the baby-boomer crowd in general."

Rashotte said the lineup depends on "the availability of the acts, who's on tour and when."

Kherson Amell from Harmony Music Plus said it is a great lineup and that he is looking forward to seeing the Steve Miller Band the most, since he hasn't seen them perform live before and Chris Caddell "because he's a local boy."

"Anyone who knows anything about classic rock will immediately know the three headliners coming to town. For a town the size of Belleville, I can't imagine getting any better acts than this," said Max Major, a DJ from Rock 107.

"These bands are true rock 'n' rollers in my opinion," said Camille Parent, residence programming assistant of Loyalist College.

Tickets for Boston will go on sale in early February. No exact date has been set. All other tickets went on sale Saturday, Jan. 14. For more information and to purchase your tickets, go to www.empire-squarelive.com.

Hanson arriving in city for Shout it Out tour

By Manuela Garay-Giraldo

Fifteen years have passed and the boys you might remember from Hanson are now men, with a record label to call their own. The pop-rock trio is coming to Belleville with their *Shout It Out* tour. The band was first introduced in 1997 with their hit *MMMBop* from their first album *Middle of Nowhere*.

Very few four-year-olds can say "my daddy plays rock and roll guitar, that's his job" and have the words hold so much truth. But for Isaac Hanson's oldest son, the simple words hit a keynote.

As I spoke over the phone from a noisy newsroom with lead guitarist and back up vocalist Isaac Hanson, who was in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the oldest brother described the process of creating the band's record company, 3CG (which stands for three car garage), came out of sheer necessity.

"Necessity is the mother of invention, I think that applies very appropriately to the formation of our record company," said Hanson.

It was 1999, and the entire record company Hanson was currently signed to "was basically canned."

"I'm talking everybody, from the president to the A&R guy was gone," said Hanson. "So literally right as we are releasing our second record, disaster struck. And we all knew it, and we all knew it was gonna be a problem."

From 2000 to 2004, the band produced about 80 songs that were rejected by the company that took over their previous label and no new album was being released.

"So we figured out a way to leave that label and ultimately started our own," Hanson said. "After spending years trying to get a record done and years of silence with our fan base, we said, 'alright, we're never gonna find ourselves in this situation again and the best way to do it was to take the risk ourselves.'"

The three records the band has released under 3CG have reached No. 1 or No. 2 on the independent music charts.

Currently the brothers are promoting their latest album *Shout It Out* which will be released in Canada sometime this March or April.

The latest material from Hanson explores the theme of "letting loose, encouraging someone to shout it out, literally," said Hanson with a chuckle.

"It's about relating to people, and saying 'you know what? Yes, things are rough right now, but here's a song to remind you that you don't have to be in that place, and, oh yeah, let's all jump up and down and have a good time.'"

Hanson plays at Belleville's Empire Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 9. To get tickets, visit <http://www.theempiretheatre.com/event/hanson/>.

For a complete Q&A with Isaac Hanson, visit www.qnetnews.ca.