

JIM CUDDY BAND TO HEADLINE 26TH ANNUAL TIM HORTONS SOUTHSIDE SHUFFLE IN MISSISSAUGA, WITH DOWNCHILD BLUES BAND CLOSING FESTIVAL AS PART OF FAREWELL TOUR

Mississauga, Ont. – Ontario's award-winning Tim Hortons Southside Shuffle Blues and Jazz Festival will bring an unforgettable weekend of music and fun to Port Credit and Memorial Park from September 6 to 8. This event draws thousands of music and festival lovers to Mississauga year after year on the weekend that follows Labour Day.

The three-day outdoor event features three stages at Port Credit Memorial Park, presenting over 40 Canadian international acts, along with performances from over 20 musical acts during its free Saturday afternoon street party known as the LIUNA Local 183 Street Shuffle, held in the village from 1-5 p.m. This is followed by a second-line parade guided by a Dixieland band, leading the crowd into Memorial Park, offering a vibrant mix of free and ticketed entertainment. Memorial Park opens at 5:30 p.m. on Friday night of the festival. The park's south end features two free stages—Not Another Restaurant Gazebo Stage and Queen Bea Stage—where top-notch live performances will continue all weekend. The south end also hosts the vendor area, offering a variety of food trucks and an artisan market. The entire village participates throughout the weekend, with bars, restaurants, and coffee shops also offering live music.

At the north end, with the ticketed stage, the Jim Cuddy Band, officially the evening's headliner, will take the stage at 8 p.m. on Saturday, September 7th. "We've scheduled Cuddy a bit earlier to ensure his fans can enjoy the prime spot and to fill the park early," says Festival Artistic Director and founder Chuck Jackson. "The night will then wrap up with the high-energy Zydeco sounds of CJ Chenier and the Red-Hot Louisiana Band starting at 10 p.m. In the blues festival circuit, it's almost customary for no one to follow a Zydeco band because of the maximum energy they bring."

Closing the festival on Sunday is the Legendary Downchild Blues Band, also known for their high-octane performances and for traditionally closing the Southside Shuffle in the park since its inception. This year's show is especially significant as Downchild embarks on their farewell tour after 55 years of performing. "I'll always be grateful for the life-changing opportunity that Donnie Walsh provided me in the world of blues music, and for the guidance and knowledge he's shared since I joined the band in 1990. It's definitely going to be a special show for us and for the audience members who have been coming to the Southside Shuffle each year," says Jackson. In addition to the Jim Cuddy Band, the Downchild Blues Band, and CJ Chenier & The Red-Hot Louisiana Band, award-winning Sue Foley will headline Friday night. Headliner performances are proudly powered by Visit Mississauga. The ticketed Brightwater Mainstage at the north end of the park will also feature Marriner & Bowskill, Bywater Call, Philip Sayce, Matt Minglewood, The Blackburn Brothers, Durham County Poets, and The Ladies of Sweet Soul Music throughout the weekend.

Also in the free area in Memorial Park, Saturday will feature the finalists for the Youth Band Challenge—featuring bands aged 12 to 18 and made possible with the support of Metalworks Studios, SoundsUnite, Long & McQuade, Mississauga Arts Council, and the Hazel McCallion Foundation. Then, on Sunday morning at 11 a.m., the Mississauga Music Walk of Fame will return, honouring local musicians who have made a significant impact on the city. This year's inductees include internationally acclaimed classical violinist Adrian Anantawan and multi-platinum-selling guitarist and songwriter for Platinum Blonde, Sergio Galli. Both of these events are at the N.A.R Gazebo Stage, and are free and open to the public.

The festival, now in its 26th year, has once again been recognized as one of the top 100 festivals out of the 1,600 festivals in Ontario. The event receives generous support from a number of sponsors, grantors, and donors, including Tim Hortons Mississauga, Visit Mississauga, Brightwater, Ontario Creates, Canadian Heritage, Port Credit Community Foundation, Port Credit BIA, the City of Mississauga, Elite Containers, Not Another Restaurant, LIUNA Local 183, Rama Gaming House, Charitable Gaming-Community Good, Hazel McCallion Foundation, and Edenshaw, along with several local businesses. "These contributions, along with the dedication of hundreds of volunteers, are essential in funding and organizing the festival, and we are very thankful for their generous support," said Festival Co-Chair Kris Kane.

Tickets for the Brightwater Mainstage are \$30 on Friday, \$40 on Saturday, and \$30 on Sunday, with \$20 savings on a weekend pass for \$80. New this year, the festival offers an upgraded General Admission VIP area at the main stage with tables, chairs, and drink service for an additional \$10, available on a first-come, first-served basis each day. Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult in the Brightwater Mainstage area. Lakeshore Road will be closed on Saturday, September 7th, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. between Lakeshore and Stavebank for the Street Shuffle. While Memorial Park is fenced for liquor licensing, only the Brightwater Mainstage at the north end of the park requires a ticket for entry. The rest is free. Additional information of all bands and schedules can be found at southsideshuffle.ca.

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