

Brand-new taste of Bolton event coming this summer

By **Zachary Roman**

A delicious new event series is set to spice up Bolton this summer.

Titled 'Taste of Bolton', the event will see Bolton's Royal Courtyards by the intersection of King and Queen streets transformed into an outdoor dining experience.

Local food vendors will be set up in the adjacent parking lot, and musicians will be playing live in the courtyards. There will be a cash bar as well for those interested.

Taste of Bolton will run three times in the summer of 2022. First, on June 17, then on July 15, and finally on August 19. For all three instances of the event, food will be served from 6 to 9 p.m. and live music will play from 7 to 10 p.m.

Event organizer Sara Clarkson explained that's so people can choose to come before the music if they so desire and just eat. However, she noted the genres of the performing musicians were chosen so that people enjoying the Taste of Bolton would still be able to chat with the other people at their table and hear what they're saying.

Clarkson is part of the Downtown Bolton Task Force, a team created to prioritize recommendations that can be found in the Bolton Downtown Revitalization Plan, which was approved by Town of Caledon Council.

Taste of Bolton is an event put together by the task force, and Clarkson explained the idea first came from Vilma Tarquini.

Clarkson, Tarquini, and Ward 5 Regional Councillor Annette Groves have been spearheading the event.

'The whole basis behind it was that we wanted to add some more community events' and we wanted also to provide the local restaurant and food vendors an opportunity to be able to highlight themselves at an event,' said Clarkson.

On June 17, Juno Award-nominated reggae artist Ammoye will be the musical entertainment. On July 15, Nobleton country artist Matt Morson will be playing the tunes. Rounding off the musical entertainment on August 19 will be local jazz quartet 4 Skör.

The idea for the Taste of Bolton event was conceived before the COVID-19 pandemic but had to be put on hold. Now that people are heading out to events again, Clarkson and the task force knew it was the right time to launch the event.

'The big part about it is that we really wanted to' help the local food vendors and restaurants to be able to highlight themselves and get people' out trying their food because we've got some new restaurants in town, there's been some caterers that have been off for a little while,' said Clarkson. 'They were hit badly, right, during COVID.'

Clarkson and the Downtown Bolton Task Force are hoping the Taste of Bolton event series will be a success and that it can continue to run in years to come. 'It's going to be interesting to see how Bolton embraces it,' said Clarkson.