

Under the Maples charity concert will feature the Practically Hip

For disappointed Tragically Hip fans, there may be some reprieve as Canada's top Hip tribute band, Practically Hip, takes centre stage at the second annual Under the Maples concert, presented by the Belfountain Community Organization (BCO) June 25.

With the recent announcement of lead singer/lyricist Gord Downie's terminal brain cancer, tickets for the Tragically Hip summer tour have reached the stratosphere, in terms of both availability and price for their fans of 30-plus years.

The most sought after tribute band and devoted fans of the iconic Canadian rock band, Practically Hip plays no less than 100 gigs across Ontario and stateside each year, plus the band members have personally attended 75 live Hip concerts.

"Only the Hip do it better," commented lead singer and Downie clone Dean Hughes, who emulates the note-perfect rendition, rants and unadulterated energy as Downie during each performance.

"As the Hip digs deep to do their summer tour, our thoughts are with Gord and his family, the band and their fans who love them," band manager and bass player Trent Richer said. "We have always been huge fans of the Tragically Hip and will continue to honour and respect their music legacy."

Warming the stage for Practically Hip is locally acclaimed rhythm and blues band Bad Weather. The self-styled R&B dance band is best known for its top 40s hits from the '50s through '70s.

Caledon-based frontman Andy Pollock on the keyboards will be joined on stage by Tom Brereton on guitar, John Cox playing bass and Dickson Zee on the drums.

Pub-style fare with an exotic flare created by award-winning Chef Thorntin MacDonald, owner of both the Belfountain Inn and Erin's Bistro Riviere, will bring a new brand of casual dining to the park-like setting at Under the Maples, with a wine and beer tent for concert visitors.

This year's concert is held in support of the Canadian Red Cross Fort McMurray Relief Fund.

Gates open at 4 p.m. with performances to 9 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.ticketpro.ca at \$20 per person plus handling fee, or \$20 each at select locations on-site or at the gate. Guests are encouraged to arrive early, and bring a chair or blanket, as there is no reserved seating.

Under the Maples is hosted at the property of local businessman Bill Moffat, at 17360 Mississauga Rd., opposite the Caledon Ski Club, which will be providing complimentary parking for the event.

For information or tickets, visit www.belfountain.ca or call 519-993-1715.