

HMF Concert Series holds first show over weekend

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Rock n' Roll made its way to Shelburne this past weekend.

The Rotary Club of Shelburne kicked off the 2022 HMF Concert Series at Fiddle Park on Sunday (June 26) with Leisa Way and her smash hit concert 'Rock n' Roll Is Here to Stay'.

The largest fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Shelburne, Sunday's concert focused on raising funds to help address food scarcity within the community.

'It feels great to see the support and it means a lot to everybody to know that people are showing up, coming out, and giving support,' said Bobbi Ferguson, co-president of the Shelburne Rotary Club. 'For us it means everything because a hundred per cent of the money we raise goes to our initiatives.'

Around 40 cars and 30 patrons seated in lawn chairs jammed out and danced along to the live music at Fiddle Park.

Patron Christine Tovey was a returnee of the HMF Concert Series, having seen Way perform her show 'Rhinestone Cowgirl, A Tribute to Dolly Parton' last summer.

'We came last year to it and really enjoyed it so we decided to come back again. Leisa is very good with all to different characters,' said Tovey.

Starting the show with the 1950s when the genre of rock n' roll got its names, Leisa Way and her Wayward Wind Band (Fred Smith, Bobby Prochaska, Bruce Ley, Tyler Check and Don Reid) over two-hours explored the greatest hits and the stories behind them. The concert featured hits from Buddy Holly, Elvis, Chuck Berry, Freddie Mercury and Queen, Fleetwood Mac, Linda Ronstadt, Backman Turner Overdrive, The Who and many more.

During the intermission of the show, Way spoke with the Free Press about making the return to the HMF Concert Series after her performance last year.

'It's pretty phenomenal to see people enjoying themselves,' said Way.

She also noted the opportunity to lend her support to help raise donations for food scarcity, an issue she recalled bearing witness to during her recent concerts up north.

'Right near the theatre there was a good Samaritan centre and every day there were hundreds of people lined up - it was shocking to see,' said Way. 'So, to be able to do something through what we love, sharing our gifts while helping people it feels good. Our goal is that people's hearts and spirits are lifted up so if that can also help people that are having difficulties, especially during this time, it's a double gift.'

The next HMF Concert Series event is on August 5 with Alberta's country sensation Dan Davidson performing at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex (CDRC).