

STONEBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE



The Little Festival That Grew-Wasaga Beach Blues

Wasaga Beach was cool but the musicians rocking the Main Stage at the Wasaga Beach Blues festival were hot. Fans from across Ontario and the U.S. enjoyed a range of blues throughout the free, 3-day festival. The third annual Wasaga Beach Blues festival, held at the Stonebridge Town Centre Sept. 13 to 15, was launched with the Boogie Woogie Blues Banquet on Sept. 12. Over 175 people enjoyed the southern style food as well as dancing to the live music of the Mississippi AllStars and Chuck Jackson's Big Bad Blues Revue.

Friday evening D'Mar and Gill entertained the crowds with their high-energy, crowd-engaging show. The Legendary Downchild Blues Band increased the heat for the 1,700 fans who braved the chilly evening. The party continued with the Boston Blues Jam at Boston Pizza and Cutler Boyd at Wild Wing.

Sunny skies brought a record number of fans on Saturday for the Street Shuffle and the vendor market, with the area feeling more like Beale Street than Stonebridge Boulevard. Performers created a festive atmosphere for fans of all ages. The Stilt Guys entertained the fans, who also oohed over the classic cars from the Wasaga Beach Cruisers. The Wasaga Beach Home and Leisure Show, hosted by Beach Booster was held in conjunction with the festival this year and ensured there was something for everyone. On Saturday evening, crowds continued to fill the grounds to see Irene Torres and the Sugar Devils, Dexter Allen, Jack de Keyser, and A Tribute to the Last Waltz, the Music of the Band. High-intensity, shows, lots of dancing under starry skies gave Wasaga Beach a new vibe. Boston Pizza and Wild Wing were packed on Saturday night; they hosted performances by the Boston Blues Jam, Tres Hombres and Paul James.

Cooler temperatures couldn't keep the crowds away on Sunday. Mark 'Bird' Stafford's Junior Jam entertained the fans with heart-wrenching performances from children and teenagers. Next, The Paul James Band delivered a beach rocking show. The Wasaga Beach Blues Festival wrapped up the way it started, with fans dancing to the music of D'Mar and Gill, and Dexter Allen, with special guest Mark Bird Stafford.

An army of volunteers aged 15 to 80 added to the party atmosphere throughout the weekend, which included a 'Liquid Lounge', sponsored by Sawdust City Brewing Company and Dan Aykroyd Wines. While fans couldn't take their favourite musician(s) home, CD and T-shirt sales on sale at the merchandise tent allowed them take some of the festival home. Donations to the Wasaga Beach Public Library were also accepted at the merchandise tent.

When Mark Crowe of the Stonebridge Building Group established the three-hour Stonebridge Blues in 2011, just under 1,000 fans attended. Now 80 musicians and 7,800 fans later, it's official: the Blues has a new home in Wasaga Beach.

Thank You to our sponsors Arnott Construction, Dan Aykroyd Wines, Sawdust City Brewery, Maxwell Stone, High Eye Aerial Imaging, Tim Hortons, 97.7 The Beach, Leon's, Dimitroff Outdoor Advertising, Foodland, Home Hardware, WE Catering, Water Depot, Canadian Tire and The UPS Store

A HUGE Thank You to the volunteers, fans, musicians, vendors, merchants and media who brought their Stonebridge Spirit and made the festival possible.

Thank You Wasaga Beach!



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