

Rhythms rock Oliver's summer at Music in the Park

Oliver's Music in the Park is hosting eight summer concerts at the community park bandshell. Even after 12 years in this location, an infusion of new bands continue to keep the music fresh each year.

Music in the Park runs Thursdays July 2 to August 20 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the Oliver Community Bandshell. Admission is by donation, with \$5 a suggested minimum. Food truck service is available at most concerts. Audiences bring a lawn chair and shades to enjoy the evening sun.

The **South Okanagan Big Band** swings the summer into high gear playing 40s jazz standards, band classics, and pop tunes on Thursday July 2. Dance hits from the 50s to the 80s promise to get people swaying barefoot on the grass.

July 9th turns the heat to cajun spicy with the return of **The Blueshounds**. Gerry belts out the boogie on vocals and harmonica until Lefty's solo guitar burns up the blues. Soul-stirring tunes from deep south greats like Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson and TBone Walker are an easy introduction to the genre.

Rollin' Coal is always an audience pleaser with their mix of Latin, pop, and rock. Sue's alto dredges up emotion in the lyrics, with Art anchoring her on stand-up bass. And Colin playing both sax and guitar at the same time demonstrates the band's versatility. They appear Thursday July 16.

World rhythms take centre stage on July 23 with **Nankama Drum and Dance**. Led by the charismatic Bobby Bovenzi, the costumed troupe begins with West African beats on the large djembe drums. The drummers bring newcomers, **Okanagan Wudang** to demonstrate martial arts. The second half of the concert invites the audience to drum and dance with them. This accessible drum circle is always a hit especially families and children.

The **BluesTown Blues Band** makes their return to the Oliver stage after Erynn's funky, soulful vocals slayed the crowd for the first time last summer. They live "just up the road" in OK Falls, but their musicianship is on another plane. They play a tight mix of funk, soul and blues on Thursday July 30.

Hardworking newcomer band **Blue Collar** gets the party started with rock, country and pop classics on Thursday August 6. The band does all the heavy lifting with pounding tunes by Billy Joel, Rolling Stones, Eagles, Trooper, Skynyrd, and Jimmy Buffet.

No summer is complete without adding **Rebel Luv** to the lineup. This local duo is a consistent crowd pleaser with a blend of Ken's rock guitar and Mikie's country vocals. They may even drop in a couple of their heartfelt originals. They perform on August 13th, the series' food bank drive night.

Pulse pounding rock 'n' roll from **Johnny Carwash and the Desert Dawgz** concludes the concert series on Thursday August 20. These newcomers to this stage let loose with Bruce Springsteen, CCR, Petty, Seger, ZZ Top, and throw in some Canadian tunes by The Hip and Bryan Adams.

Music in the Park is a program of the Oliver Community Arts Council. An arts council market will promote the activities and wares of its members at many of the concerts.