

[The Hamilton Spectator](#)
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COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS RETURNING TO HAMILTON?

A major musical event, likely the Canadian Country Music Awards, will be coming to Hamilton in September 2018.

The nationally televised event will be officially announced Thursday, March 9, at a news conference attended by Mayor Fred Eisenberger.

"Our host city for Country Music Week 2018 and the CCMA Awards Show will be announced soon," said a brief announcement on the website of the Canadian Country Music Association.

Scott Warren, general manager of Spectra by Comcast Spectacor which runs FirstOntario Centre, confirmed Thursday the venue has been booked for September 2018, for a "major awards show" but could not specify whether it was the CCMAs.

"I can't say what kind of awards show, but I will say that I'm holding dates for September 2018," Warren said. "I'm sure that there is going to be a little bit of suspense and on March 9 we're all going to find out more about it."

Hamilton has hosted the annual CCMAs on five previous occasions, most recently in 2011 when the awards show was held at FirstOntario Centre on the same weekend as Supercrawl.

In 2011, the CCMAs were broadcast live from Hamilton's FirstOntario Centre by CBC, drawing almost one million viewers and featuring performances by Johnny Reid, Ronnie Dunn, Luke Bryan, Jim Cuddy and Terri Clark.

This year's CCMAs are being held in Saskatoon on Sept. 7.

The CCMAs are the second largest music awards in Canada, next only to the Junos, which Hamilton last hosted in 2015.

The site of the 2018 Junos has not yet been announced but a spokesperson for the Canadian Academy of Recording Sciences said the host city would not be announced until April.

The Juno Awards are held in late March or early April, while the CCMAs are usually held in September.

Representatives of the Canadian Country Music Association did not return calls from The Spectator.