



## **Manning teen wins Games Idol talent contest**

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It was an emotional end to the Summer Games Idol contest as Manning's Paige Stewart was announced as the winner. The 15-year-old performed an impressive rendition of Colbie Callait's song *Bubbly*. The judges praised Stewart for her interpretation of the song and for making it her own.

Stewart beat out eight other finalists to earn the \$1,000 grand prize and the chance to sing for the athletes at the upcoming 2010 Alberta Summer Games, hosted by the Peace Region July 19 – 25.

For celebrity guest judge Jillian Harris, known for her time on TVs *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette*, the evening was about more than the Idol contest, it was a real home-coming celebration for her and fiancé Ed Swiderski. From the moment she arrived at the Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre, Harris was surrounded by a crowd of family and friends, some of whom she had been out of touch with for years. And she was thrilled to be accompanied by Swiderski, who stole her heart during filming of *The Bachelorette*. Harris, who recently announced that she will be joining the cast of *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, arrived in Peace River with Swiderski on Thursday and plans to spend the rest of the weekend showing him around the area, including going quadding with family and friends. She said a love of quadding and the outdoors is just one of many things she and Swiderski share. Since it's Swiderski's first trip to her home town, Harris wants to make sure he gets the full Peace country experience.

The Summer Games Idol contest actually began back in April with feeder shows in Manning and Falher. Nine finalists were chosen and their performances were posted on local radio station KIX FM, where the general public could vote for their favourite performers.

According to Idol finale MC Chris Black – who did a pretty impressive imitation of Ryan Seacrest – thousands of votes were cast as the Peace region really got into this contest.

All nine finalists performed at the Idol finale, but only the top three vote-getters were eligible for the grand prize. The identity of the top three was kept under lock and key and not revealed until all nine finalists had performed at the show.

The judges – Harris, Swiderski, Damien Gness of KIX FM and Summer Games volunteer extraordinaire Megan Curry – were blown away by the talent of the nine finalists, sometimes almost being moved to tears by the performances.

Once the top three were revealed, the judges had the onerous task of picking the winner between Stewart, 14-year-old Madison Amber Laliberte of MacLennan, who played her guitar and sang Taylor Swift's *Our Song*, and a quartet from Peace River featuring Wren Backely, 16, Tenielle Brennan, 16, Tanis DeBoon, 17, and Elise Diewert, 17. The quartet performed an a capella version of Emmy Rossum's *Slow Me Down*.

The other finalists were Mary Crowley, 12, of Peace River; Kaitlin Freeman, 14, of Falher; Alicia Kacho, 13, of Peace River; Maria Lovsin, 11, of Peace River; James Mundt, 17, of Grimshaw; and Monica White, 16, of Peace River.

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#### ABOUT THE 2010 ALBERTA SUMMER GAMES

On July 19 – 25, 2010, the Peace Country is hosting the 2010 Alberta Summer Games. Over 3,000 athletes, coaches and officials will be visiting the Peace region to participate in Alberta's premier youth sporting event. The communities of Falher, Grimshaw, Manning, Peace River, Berwyn and Nampa, the MDs of Peace No. 135 and Smoky River No. 130, the County of Northern Lights and Northern Sunrise County are playing host to this multi-sport, multi-cultural extravaganza. Let's show these future Olympians some good old-fashioned Peace Country hospitality, in the spirit of the Games—good sportsmanship, competitiveness and camaraderie. For more information on the 2010 Alberta Summer Games, please visit [www.2010albertasummernames.ca](http://www.2010albertasummernames.ca)

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