Entertainment

Curtain Club elects exec

Theatre opens new season

Alex Lifeson

"Rush" guitarist is a resident of Richmond Hill

Come on along.....

to the biggest antique auto rally and family-style get-together ever...

On Sunday, July 9 in Oakville

ST. VLADIMIR'S CHURCH
BINGO
EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT
7:40 p.m. Eastchurch
8:00 p.m. Regular Games
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YORK FARMERS' MARKET
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RICHMOND HILL LEGION BINGO
OPEN FOR THE W. Attie BINGO at 7:30 pm
NO. 1 JACKPOT $600.00
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THORNHILL LIONS BINGO
EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT
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THORNHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE
John St. and Bayview Ave. Thornhill
JACKPOT $1,000.00
FINAL NIGHT JACkPOT MUST GO
CALL 228-1453

Come on along...

The land of merriment has its ups and downs.

Crystal Beach

BILLS 205

CERAMICS

27 PARKSIDE DR. NOGARDET (COMMUNITY) 350 3577
"Rush" guitarist is a resident of Richmond Hill
ALEX LIFESON

"Rush" guitarist is a resident of Richmond Hill

By MILLIE STEWART
Liberal Reporter

He has long blond hair, plays a mean guitar, is the pin-up idol of thousands and he lives in Richmond Hill.

He is Alex Lifeson, lead guitarist in a trio of rock stars whose music is sweeping the nation. The rock group is "Rush", and right now, they are number one in Canada.

Today, Alex Lifeson is a star making thousands of young people scream and cheer at the music he plays.

Yesterday...he was just one of those young people.

CHRISTMAS GUITAR

When he was 14 years old, he lived in Willowdale and chummed with Steve Shutt now of the Montreal Canadiens. He got his first guitar as a Christmas gift, and that's when the music bug hit.

In 1968, when he was just 15, he teamed up with two friends, John Rutsey and Geddy Lee, also of Willowdale, and...they decided to form a band and call it "Rush". Why they chose that name, isn't known for certain. Some people think it describes an inner energy they had at the time.

LONG ROAD

The long road to Stardom was filled with ups and downs. They started playing in a youth drop-in centre called the 'Coffin' in a church basement. This is where they first met Ray Danniels, who went on to become their manager.

Ray arranged bookings at high schools, colleges, bars and anywhere else they could get some exposure. The group played this kind of circuit for a few years, until 1974, when things started to change.

RECORDING

Ray judged them ready to make a recording in 1974, but not one Canadian recording company would have anything to do with them.

Things looked grim, until Danniels and a friend, Vic Wilson formed an independent company and the recording was made on the 'Moon' label.

Shortly after the album was released, John Rutsey left the group. His place on drums, was filled by Neil Peart from the St. Catharines area.

With his coming, and writing some of the lyrics, the group's music picked up, and they were on their way.

For Alex Lifeson, this new popularity has meant much.

He doesn't just play his guitar...he tears chunks out of the air with his music augmented by more than $100,000 worth of electronic gadgetry.

On stage, he is surrounded by echo units, phase shifters, digital delay and harmonizers.

The road has been long, and often uphill for the 14-year-old kid with his treasured Christmas guitar, but now he has made it.

He has a beautiful home in Richmond Hill, where his wife, Charleen and sons, Justin and Adrian wait for him to return from the road trips and concerts.

His guitar has grown to a family of expensive guitars plus all the electrical paraphernalia that goes with them.

Rush is still managed by Danniels and Wilson, who are the owners of S.R.O. Anthem, which is based in Richmond Hill.

For Geddy Lee, Neil Peart and Alex Lifeson, the words of one of their songs, say it all...

"We have assumed control."

She's seeking young talent for TV show

Filming will begin next month for a new children's talent show, to be known as "Future Generation".

Any children, three to 12 years of age, who have talent and would like to appear on the show, should have their parents contact Future Generation, 16 Elgin Street, Apartment 281, Thornhill.

Call 881-7618 for further details.

Libraries stretch their hours

Library hours at two Richmond Hill branches have been changed for the convenience of patrons. The Richmond Hill Public Library Board has approved the change in opening hours for the Charles Connor Branch and the Richvale Branch.

Change in hours will eliminate the closing of both libraries during the lunch and dinner hours. Effective Tuesday, July 4, the libraries will be open during the following time:

Tuesday to Thursday inclusive: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

On Friday and Saturday inclusive: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.