



ALEX LIFESON

"Rush" guitarist is a resident of Richmond Hill

By MICHAEL STEWART
Liberal Reporter

He has long short hair, plays a mean guitar, is the group's 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 radio 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 chomped with Steve that now of the Montreal Canadiens. He got his first guitar as a Christmas gift, and that's when the music bug bit.

In 1964, when he was

15, he learned up with

two friends, John Rutsey

and Geddy Lee, son of

Willowdale, and they

decided to form a band

and call it "Rush". Why

they chose that name,

well, 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 first

started playing in a youth

group in a church called

"Coffee" in a church

basement. This is where

they first met Neil Peart.

Neil Peart, who went on

to become their manager,

they changed their name

to Rush. The group

played this kind of music

for a few years, until 1967,

when things started to

change.

RECORDING

Ray, judged them

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Entertainment Curtain Club elects exec

The Richmond Hill

Curtain Club held its

annual general meeting

last week and among the

items on the agenda was

the election of the club

executive for the 1978-79

season.

Of the seven positions

available, four were filled

by acclamation, two had

to be called in a vote, then

the position of secretary

is still vacant.

Last year's Vice

President, David Phillips,

became the new

President in a loud round

of applause from the

club's members.

Phillips, who with the

club has included acting

directing, set design, and

lighting.

This loud background

noise will equip him to

cope with the difficult

position of President.

David relinquished his

former position to

newcomer Claude Wall.

Claude made his first

appearance with the

Curtain Club in "Oh What

A Lovely War" where his

fine singing proved he

was an asset to the club.

His latest good fortune

is as St. Roger's Mummerly

member of the committee

will long be remembered

by Curtain Club patrons.

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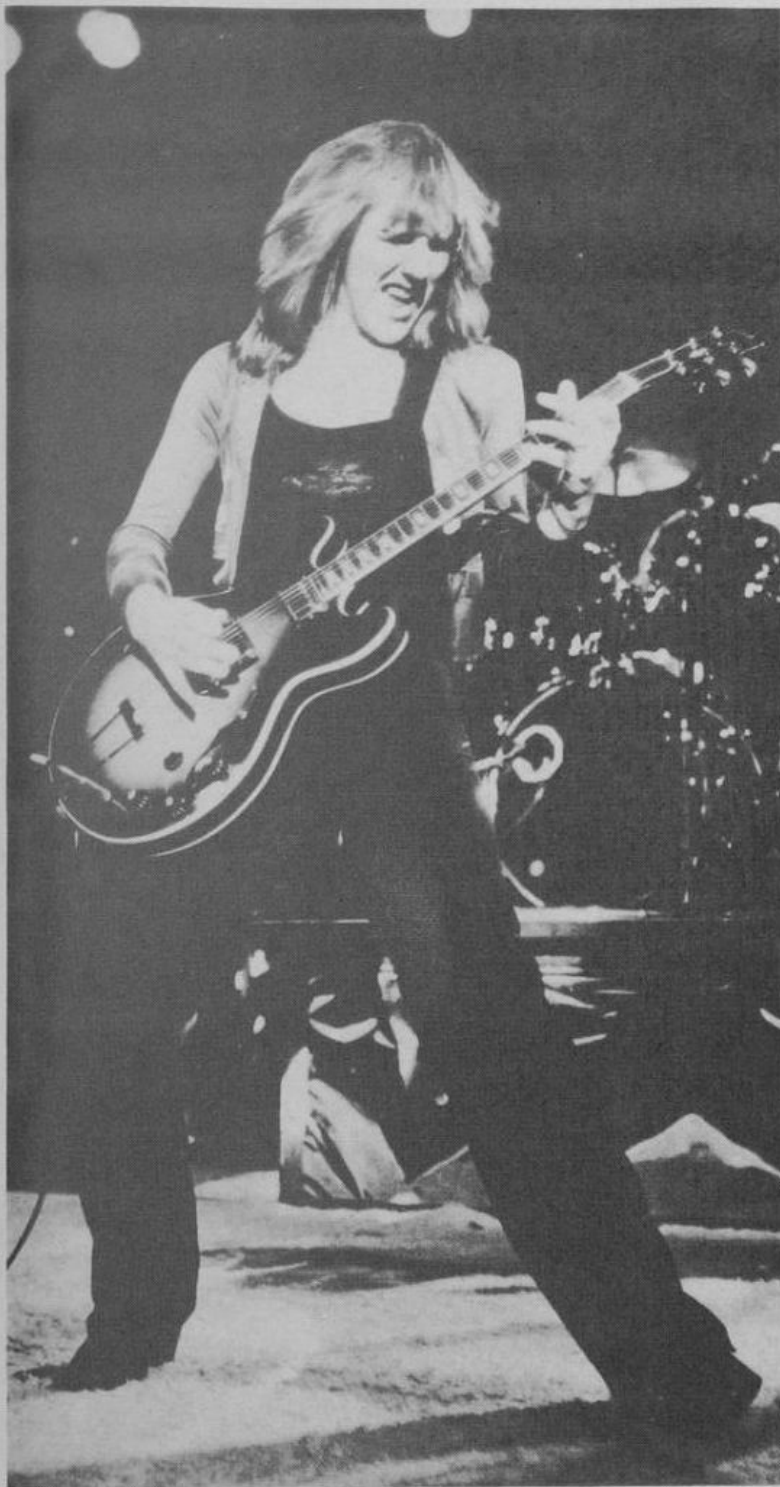
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Libraries stretch their hours

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: 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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 first 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 231, Thornhill.

Call 881-7618 for further details.