## Norval becomes Nashville when Opry North rolls

By CHRIS AAGAARD Herald Staff Writer

"Are you ready to go?" (Warm applause, some cheering, still too much conv-

ersation.) "I can't hear youuuu. . . " (Crowd erupts, cheers, whis-

tles, even clackers and bells.) The countdown was on. Master of ceremonies Blll Kelly was doing his usually splendid job of revving up the crowd and, for the time being, a couple of band members twanged away on steel guitar backed up with a little casual bass drum and snare.

It was embarassingly apparent that out of the 300 or so people comfortably packed into the Norval Junction Sunday afternoon (" . . . in beautiful

downtown Norval, just west of Brampton, Ontario . . . ) I was the only one who wasn't a regular or a diehard country and western fan.

While thinking about how out

of place I was, not wearing

cowboy boots or a feathered western hat (even my belt buckle looked conservative), Bill stepped up to the mike again. The show was about to "OK, let's roll tape," he said, and once again, the

audience of young and old weekend cow pokes exploded in merriment as if the Argos had been on the winning end of a 61-3 bout with Edmonton.

NASHVILLE CFGM radio 1320 has been using the Norval Junction to

. One artist who drew quite a crowd at Opry North at the

(Herald photo)

Local Kinsmen enjoy

C&W show 'residuals'

guys serving, it's the Kinet-

Although its hard work

(Sunday liquor laws insist

that patrons eat while drink-

ing and stay in their seats

with their glasses), the Kins-

men enjoy profits from the

bar, money which eventually

goes into the club's numer-

It was something which

was arranged with the radio

station, the Junction's

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child the gentle way and avoid the psycological pittalls and the shame that so often accompanies this

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mothers have written or telephoned to say "Thank you, my child is now dry!"

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ous community projects.

tes at the taps.

Norval Junction last Sunday was top ten recording artist David

Thomson, seen above signing his recent album "A Sketch of

Country" on Citation Records, Opry is hosted by CFGM radio.

1320 and following tapings at the Junction (the former Way Jay

club) is syndicated to about 25 other stations from St. John's,

Newfoundland, to Victoria; B.C.

Besides Norval Junction's

owners, one local group

which certainly enjoys the

arrival of CFGM's Opry

North entourage for tapings

lows winding in between

tables, dodging sprawled

cowboy boots, taking orders

for drinks and stopping-er-

occasionally to raise an eye-

brow at some of the ladies

poured into their western

designer jeans. While it's the

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trips or sleep-overs with friends?

problem.

Kin members are the fel-

is the local Kinsmen Club.



fortunate colleagues who are struggling for a break to get them out of an unproductive club and bar circuit. And the audience is always

appreciative, Afterall, they know that Opry North has been a launching pad for some great talent. Recalling the early days of favorite performers before they reached "star status" is something fans love to do. If you ask long-time country music afficianados to draw a time chart for some of the best performers they can think of, appearances on Opry North would likely figure in there somewhere.

SUMMER SHOWS CFGM also sponsors a number of other country music entertainment events during the summer. There are frequent concerts at Brampton's Chinguacousy Park, where as many as 8,000 fans per show perch themselves on surround-

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ing hills to take in the excite-

Although things move indoors during the fall - notably at the Norval Junction - the enthusiasm is ever present and it reaches out from the radio to capture audiences from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Victoria, B.C.

"Let's have a big welcome for all our friends out at CHFX

in Halifax." Billy Kelly bellowed and again the audience responded as if everyone has a relative somewhere in the Maritimes.

Opry North will be back in Norval Nov. 22 for two more topings, and CFGM is planning a Jolly Christmas show scheduled for mid-December. More information about that at a later date.

Lovely country journalist after Opry scoops -- Page 8

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Johnny Burke and Eastwind led off Sunday's tapings of Opry North at the Norval Junction Itadio station CFGM, Canada's number one country and western voice, hosts the hour-long sessions of Opry, bringing in top C and W talent, as well as giving lesser-known artists breaks they might walt years to get. To many people who tune into the program across Canada (7 p.m. on CFGM-AM 1320 in Toronto), Norval has become kind of a northern Nashville and the tapings conducted at the Junction attract a wide age-range of listeners. Another taping session will be held Nov. 22 at 5 p.m. following the Grey Cup game. Titerald photo) -

tape its immensely popular "Opry North" show since last spring. The top country and western music station in Canada, it distributes Opry North to about 25 other stations across the country; even though the unenlightened may think that little of Norval is located "west of Brampton". for many people who tune into the show 17 p.m. Saturdays in Toronto), Norval must be Canada's own Nashville.

Every time the CFGM equipment truck rolls into the Junction, two tapings of Opry North are done. Last Sunday's shows, for example, featured superlative Canadian C and W stars like Johnny Burke and Eastwind, Glory-Anne Carriere and David Thompson, who has three records in the top ten

on the country charts. Orval Prophet (Ronnie's uncle) was there, too, and so was Donna and Leroy (from television's Tommy Hunter Show), Rick Fielding, the Gar-

and Jim Robertson) and the

Kinsmen. Apparently, it's

worked out well for all

"They volunteered to help

out," Opry North co-produc-

er Richard LeVear said.

"They took after catering the

food and the refreshments

and they do a super job for

us. I really must congratula-

te them and we're proud to

have them as part of the

parties concerned.

The ROTARY CLUB

of GEORGETOWN

announces their annual

rison Brothers and Mary Ball-

Produced and directed by Gord Ambrose, CFGM's music director, the show has probably done more for budding country music artists then any single program for its kind in Canada. In the five years Opry North has been on the air. listeners have tuned Into several of the best musicians in the business, major drawing cards like Carroll Baker, Ronnle Prophet, Buck Owens and

George Hamilton IV. As long as people listen, new musicians looking for their first big break eventually get exposed, Opry production assistant John Vercillo explain-

SAME WAY

"That's the concept behind the show," he said, "to promole Canadian country music, in much the same way (radio station) WSM promoted musicians in the U.S."

Despite efforts by the Canadian Radio - television and Telecommunications Commission aimed at encouraging radio stations to give unestablished native artists airtime. there still appears to be a stigma attached to homegrown sounds: lingering doubt about whether or not they can stand up to the popularity of American or European artists.

Professional barriers -"I've made it, Jack, what's holding you back?" - fall on the Opry stage. Within the same taping, artists who travel on their wave of popularity across Canada gladly join less



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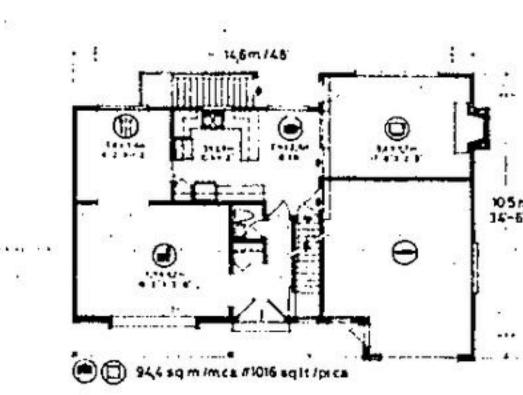
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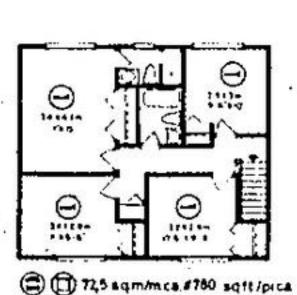
Here's a larger home which possesses a wide array of convenience amenities in a spacious and well-arranged floor plan, and which would make an excellent home for the family which requires good design and space arrangement in an attractive package. The dealgn provides 1,800 square feet of finished floor area on two level, yet the home would be ideally sulled to the medium frontage residential building lot. The attractive exterior is finished in horizontal channot siding and brick vancor. with shuttered windows, a wide front verandah and a heave shake roof, For those who prefer, the roof could be alternately finished in conventional shingles.

The weather-protected. double-doored main entry leads into a spacious reception foyer and outerwear storage area, which contains a convenient two-piece vanity bathroom, from the foyer, traffic moves naturally lost, into the large L-shape livingdining room combination. The area could be completely divided by French doors or a double pocket door, for those

who profer. The well arranged U-shape kitchenidinette complex provides a stop-saving work triangle, generous countertop work surfaces and abundant cupboard storage. The dinette area separates from the kitchen via and countertop and cupboard storage. which could be constructed as a convenient snack-bar counter, for those whose tastes run to occasional meals. The dinette contains the entrance to the full basement, and a side entrance from the single-car

garage. A large family room/TV lounge la sunken two risers from the dinette area, from which it is separated via optional spindle acreen wall. The family room features a raised-hearth masonry firepla ce and a rear exit door.





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