

BARTENDER CREATING A BUZZ WITH MAGIC

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This bartender's got a few tricks up his sleeve — literally.

Neil Griffin recently joined the team at the Appalachian Public Drink House. While he's serving up drinks, customers may be surprised at what comes next — a little sleight of hand that will likely leave them wondering, how did he do it?

"I do mostly close-up magic, which is the hardest type," he said during an interview while also performing a card trick. "It's something a little different. Instead of just, 'Here's your drink,' it's a more personable experience. Bringing happiness to people is

something I like to do."

The Brampton native has been doing magic for the past two years and said he likes to cater his tricks to the audience. So it may come as no surprise that he's currently planning some bar-specific fun, like turning water into a pint of beer.

"And if someone's a skeptic, that's when I lay it on thick," he noted.

Griffin's face may be familiar to some from the local comedy scene. He runs the Crack Me Up Comedy series of shows and has also brought some of his hilarity to the local bar via an open mic night and trivia night, where he creates the questions with a funny twist.

Up next, the jack-of-all-trades is launching a hot wings challenge, which will



Melanie Hennessey/Torstar

Neil Griffin is serving up drinks with a touch of magic at the Appalachian Public Drink House.

see participants try their hand — or mouth — at some of the hottest sauces around, created by Salem's Lott.

Those who take up the challenge have five minutes to eat five wings with no drinks — one wing per minute "to let it sit and burn,"

explained Griffin, who has dabbled in the competitive eating world. Anyone who passes the first test can then try another round of five wings with even hotter sauce.

The Appalachian Public Drink House is located at 68 Main St. N., Georgetown.



By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

... Lend Me Your Ears

GETTING USED TO NEW HEARING INSTRUMENTS

Part 1

A patient who has never worn hearing instruments before, or is wearing a new type or circuit may go through a period of adjustment. The following are suggestions to help you through that adjustment period:

Don't get discouraged. It may take time to realize the benefit of your hearing instruments. You have been hearing through a damaged system that has delivered distorted signals to your brain. Now the sounds you are being exposed to are louder and different than what you are used to. In time, your brain will adjust to the new signals it is receiving.

When you first start wearing the hearing instruments, you will suddenly hear sounds you were previously unaware of. Many you will recognize as sounds you used to hear before you had a hearing loss, and others will have to be identified for you. These sounds will seem bothersome at first because you are not used to hearing them. In time, like those with normal hearing, you will unconsciously block out these daily sounds.

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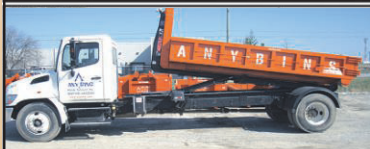
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