



FALL SALE!



DOUG CROSLY

Markham entertainer's career takes upward turn

By PAULA CROWELL
Staff Reporter

Doug Crosley is a survivor. He's not a victim of war or natural disaster, he's an entertainer whose career looked finished in 1964, but has taken a positive turn of late.

The Markham resident is working full-time for the first time in 20 years. He is a professional master of ceremonies and trains young people in several weeks, in the craft he has honed during the last two decades.

Mr. Crosley didn't always plan to be a host of hosts. In 1964 he reached the peak of his career as a singer, appearing on The Tonight Show, the Merv Griffin Show and the Mike Douglas Show within a couple of months of each other.

But then along came four young men from Liverpool. The Beatles revolutionized the music industry in North America and the crooning balladeer could no longer make a living.

Mr. Crosley said, "When you've got singers like Julio Iglesias and Steve Lawrence, forget it. The competition is stiff in Canada but it's unbelievable in the U.S."

He has hosted three television shows during his career. His first was a variety show for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. produced in Winnipeg.

In 1970 he hosted the Doug Crosley Show, which didn't survive. And four years ago he hosted a music game show which was used as a summer replacement.

But it doesn't matter to him whether he's standing in front of an audience of 5,000 people or a TV camera, the stage is his first love and it's where he hopes to remain.

He works for a production company called Tiny Pebworth Limited, as a production consultant and coach. Although his job description doesn't necessarily include stage work, he hopes to continue it.

Some recent hosting jobs included the Miss Oktoberfest show in Kitchener-Waterloo and the Miss Hawaiian Tropic competition.

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