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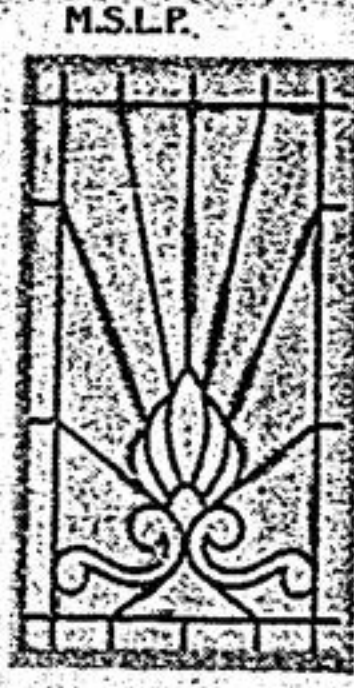
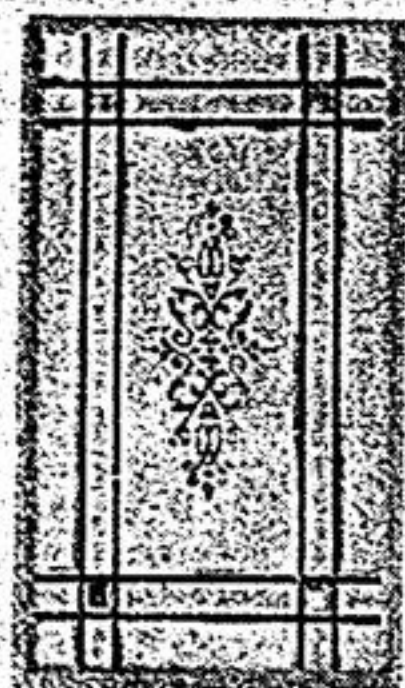
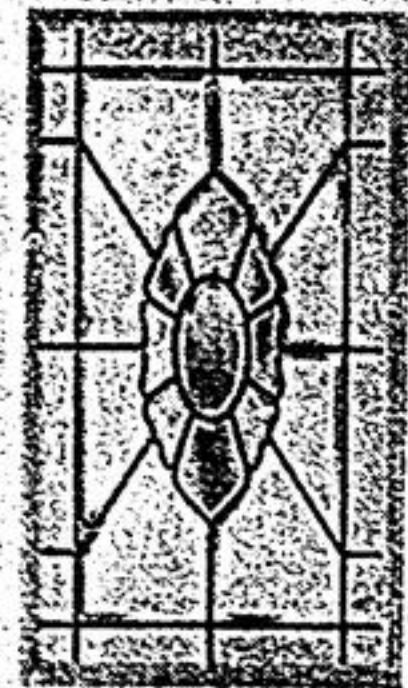
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**Battle of Bands  
given go-ahead**

By KATE GILDERDALE

Town recreation programmer Peter Arnott is delighted his proposal for a Battle of the Bands, scheduled for Saturday, May 27 at the Recreation Centre, has been approved by council, with the proviso ticket sales must cover costs.

The competition is open to any band in York Region that doesn't have a current recording contract.

"Any kind of band, including rock and roll, rockabilly, rhythm and blues or blues, is invited to take part," he said.

Entrants can submit demo tapes to the recreation centre up until Friday, April 14.

Those will be screened by the recreation department and town staff at WEA Records' Ontario branch and the top six or eight selections will be invited to play at the Battle of the Bands," Peter explained.

The focus is on original music he said, but there may also be a category for best cover version of an established number.

"Right now we're working on prizes we hope will include things like studio time, equipment and albums."

He's also approaching radio station, CKAN for support in pro-

moting the event and possibly acting as hosts.

"I picked them because they're a Region of York station and this is a regional event."

If the Battle of the Bands is successful, Peter sees it as an annual event, "not a one-shot deal. It may travel around to different recreation departments in the Region of York."

Any surplus revenue will be put directly back into teen programs, he noted, adding the contest is open to all age groups.

He has contacted A & S Construction and Stouffville Rental and "it looks as if we will be able to get something together for a scaffold stage."

He plans to rent professional sound and lighting equipment with a qualified staff to run it, to ensure a consistent mix of music and lighting.

The result will give bands the advantage of a professional showcase for their music "like a typical touring rock and roll band. It will be very loud and very exciting."

He's sending information to student council groups in York Region schools, inviting them to help with organization and promotion of the event. He's also contacted other municipalities in the region asking for support.

Peter wants to generate funds towards overall teen programs in the area, and, if this year's 'Battle' is successful, he'd like to book a top band like Honeymoon Suite or Brighton Rock to play at the conclusion of future contests. It's all part of his desire to give teens recreation opportunities in town.

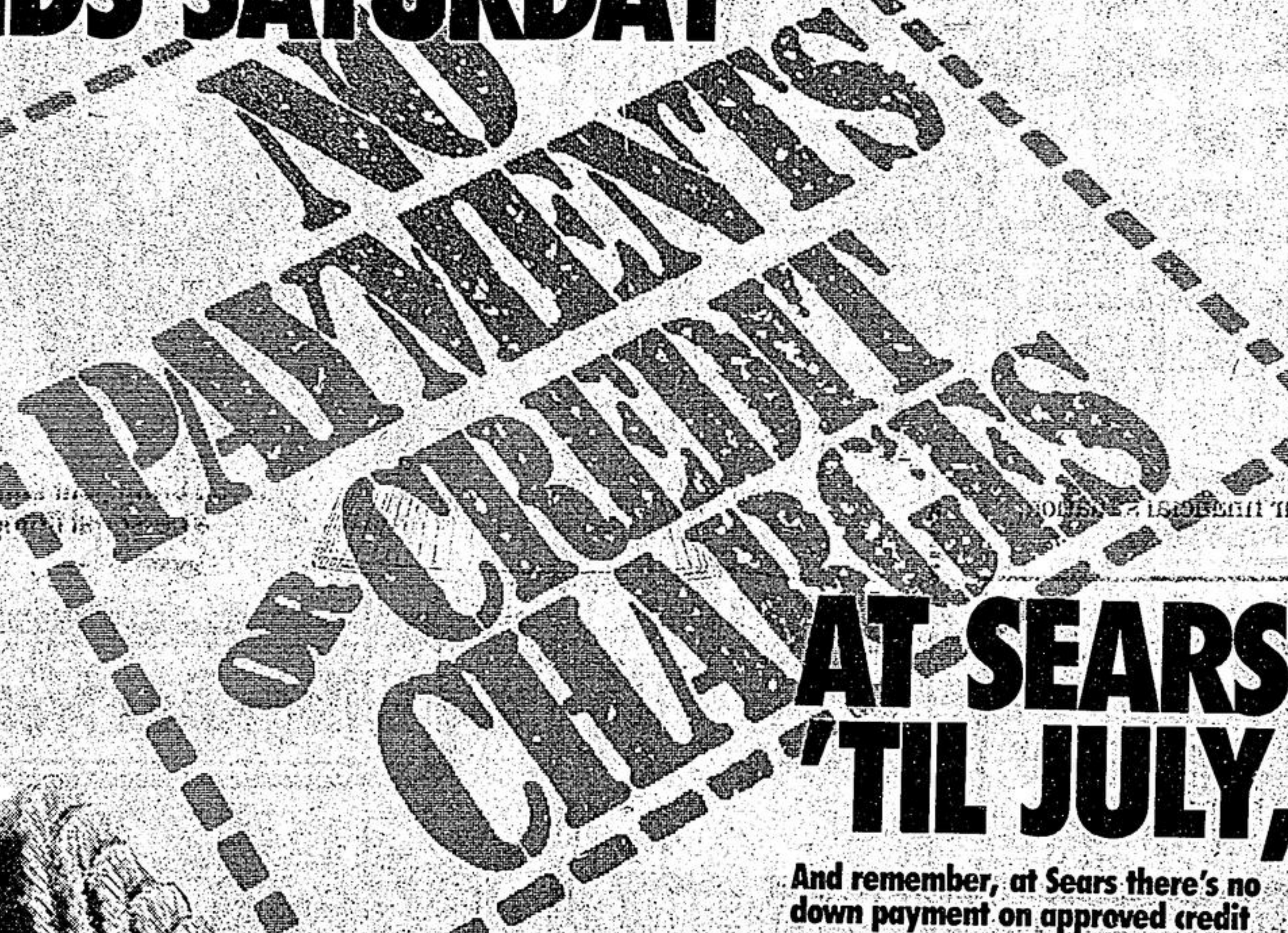
"Why do the kids have to go out of town? We've offered five different recreation programs for teens, and we're providing services within Whitchurch-Stouffville's boundaries."

Since he started concentrating on teen programs, he's noticed a significant drop in letters complaining that young people have nothing to do in town.

With an audience capacity of 2,000 and reasonable ticket prices, he believes the show should easily break even, with the support and involvement of area teens.

For further information, call Peter at the recreation centre, 640-6527.

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