

# Shane's life lesson combines music, business and hope

Sometime later this month - or perhaps later this summer on this summer - a group of enthusiastic teenaged rock musicians will take to the stage in Stouffville, doing what every aspiring entertainer dreams of doing - playing in front of a real, live, admission-paying audience.

The band will include an 18-year-old bass guitarist who, if he can pull this thing off, will have completely redefined the phrase "sing for your supper" known too well by the starving musicians of this world. The teen is my son Shane, whose passion for playing his favorite music has resulted in the usual conflict: Parents

much more time than Shane ever imagined. And, admittedly, there have been times his parents wished he had settled for a business idea more like pushing around a Dickie Dee cart, and a concert played for free at a school assembly.

But he's chosen the route of the self-administered life lesson.

Hopefully, the air will ring with the sound of electric guitars and rhythmic drum beats some Saturday night in the not too distant future, as these kids see their work come to fruition.

If it does, there'll be a tired but satisfied bass guitarist on stage, a little beleaguered, but with a whole new respect for what it

takes to get what you want in this world.

And if it doesn't, I can only say to the writer of the recent unsigned letter I received questioning the ethics of teens who

make mistakes and don't own up to them, that win or lose, Shane's name is all over this one - which is more than I can say for adults who write anonymous letters.



From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley

being forced to confront their adolescent offspring on things like music versus marks.

The concept was born last fall when Shane was trying to figure out an enterprising endeavor, one of the requirements for his business accounting course at school. He put his head together with a few friends, and came up with the scheme of a concert, which would include his band, along with Stouffville's Dirtweed, and a third group.

Remembering his summer of 1989 spent in Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children recovering from a serious burn injury, he added the notion of donating the profits to hospital's burn unit.

Several months later, he's still trying to nail the thing down. He's facing all the obstacles encountered by any greenhorn tackling something new. But through a lot of hard work and commitment, he's also guaranteed success of a sort.

For Shane and his crew have already held a bowl-a-thon and a car wash for the purpose of raising seed money for the concert.

His team of smiling, hard-working teens spent over eight hours washing cars in a local parking lot last Saturday, with a day's take of over \$350 to show for their toil.

The idea is to come up with enough money to pay the concert expenses, with every dollar brought in at the gate going directly to the cause.

And, if by some chance, the concert falls through, Shane and his crew will donate the money earned in their fund raising attempt to Sick Kids hospital. They will also have learned a lesson in how to make the thing go off without a hitch next time.

The whole thing has taken

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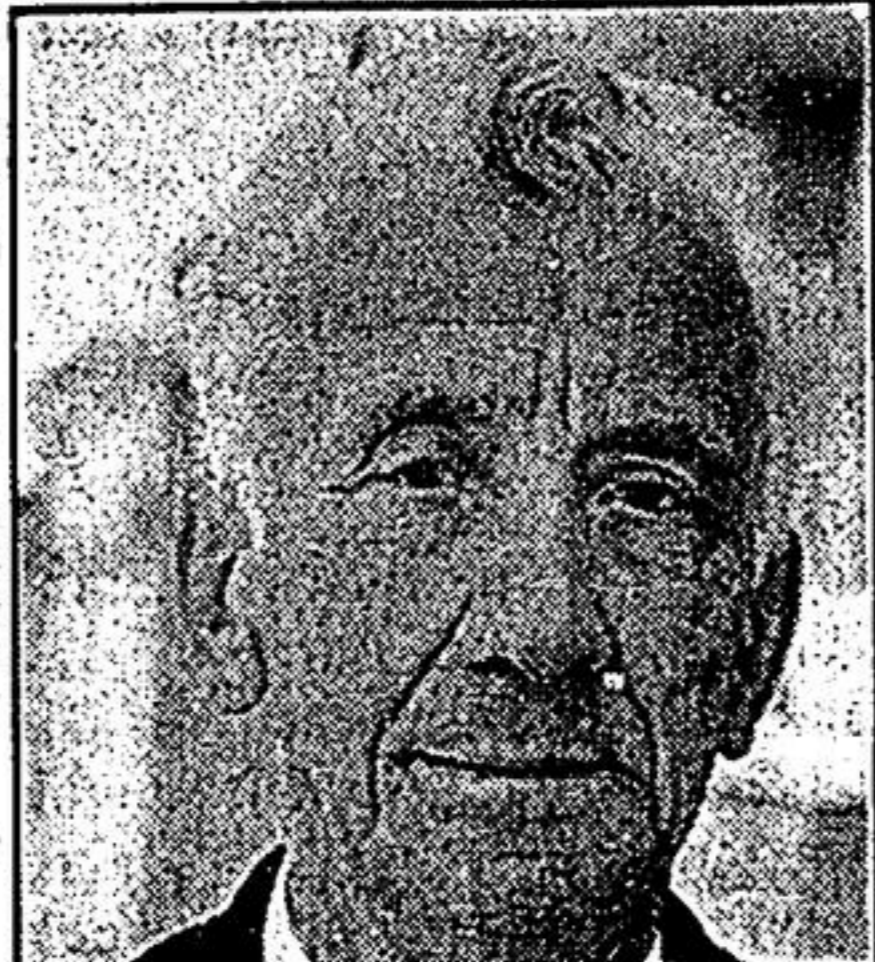
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