

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Jubilee a seniors' showcase

BY KATE GILDERDALE
CORRESPONDENT

From accomplished musicians to graceful ballroom dancers, the Royal Bank Seniors Jubilee encompasses a rich tapestry of talent from across the province.

Stouffville residents Gordon Brook and Bernie Leawood, who are members of the Toronto Banjo Band, are among those taking part in the event, which is held at Roy Thomson Hall Aug. 17 to 21.

"The band was formed in 1986 and this is the third year we've done Roy Thomson Hall," said Brook, who is one of the ensemble's original members.

Making memorable music means scheduling regular rehearsals, which take place every two weeks, said Brook. "We have a total membership of 40, with 23 going out to most gigs." The British native immigrated 53 years ago, and lived in Claremont for 29 years before moving to Stouffville in 1997.

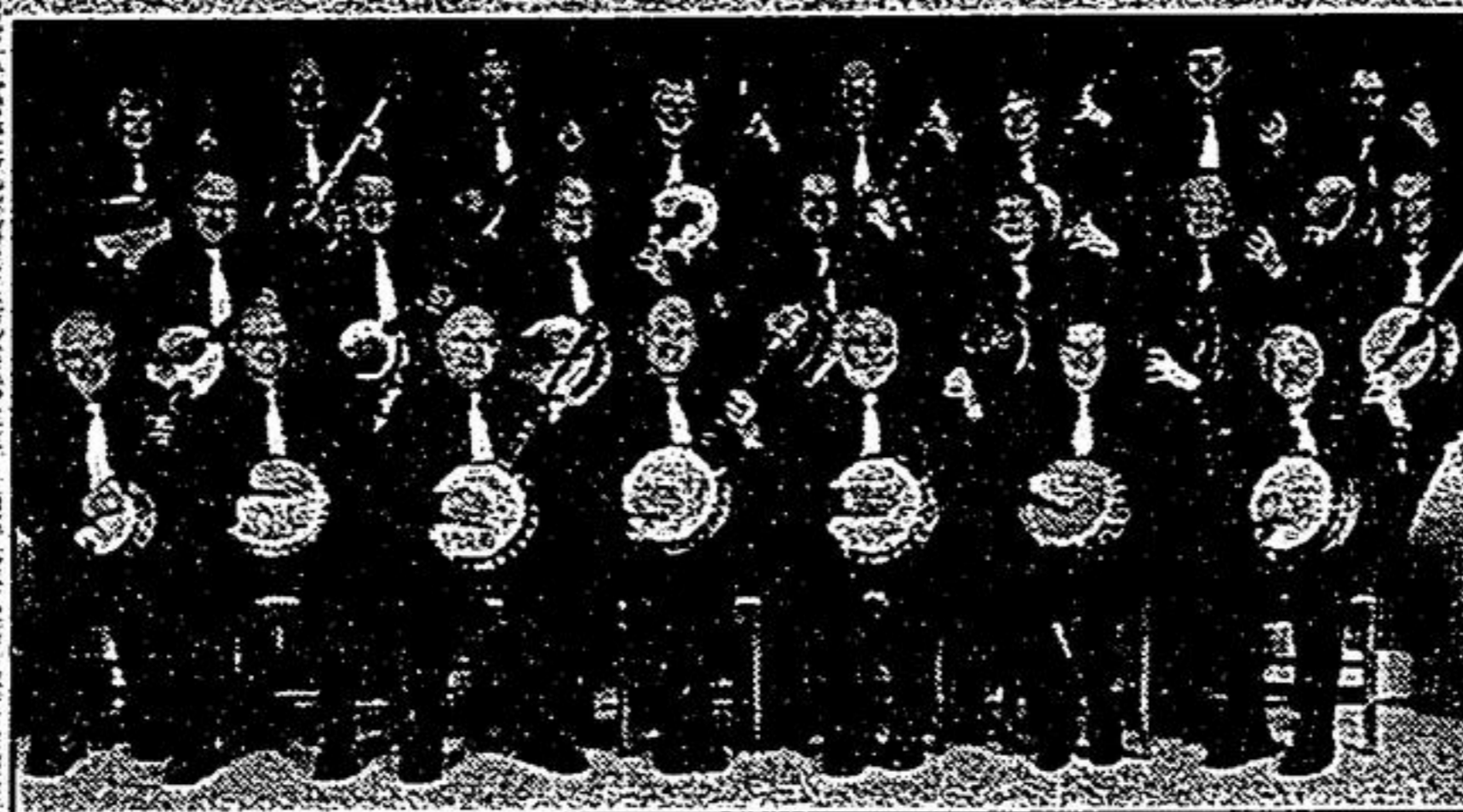
Leawood got involved with the band about eight years ago. "I've always been interested in music. My dad was in a choir and I also sang in a choir. I picked up music later in life and (the band) is a great hobby," he said. "We've played at Markham Fair every year for about six or seven years."

So popular has their music become that the band is now a permanent fixture at the fair, and people come from all over to hear us play.

The Toronto Banjo Band also performs regularly at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre and Kettleby Fair, as well as at a number of local events, and attends the Fretted Instrument Guild of America's annual convention. Overall, approximately 500 guild members and their families participate in the convention, which is held at a different location each year. "We have hosted it on two occasions and it's quite an accomplishment because of the number of people involved - it's a lot of work," said Leawood.

When he's not performing, he organizes bookings for the Dixie Cats, a popular group of musicians and singers which is featured at the Duchess of Markham every Sunday between 4:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Markham's own Kick Up A Fuss Cloggers take centre stage in the cast of this variety showcase. These exceptional



Bernie Leawood and Gordon Brook of Stouffville will perform with the Toronto Banjo Band at the seniors jubilee later this month. Leawood is seated in the front row, far left, and Brook is in the front row, third from the right.

entertainers perform extensively throughout the community and are a welcome addition to this year's salute to talented seniors.

More than 1,300 performers will take part in the Royal Bank Seniors Jubilee, which is Canada's largest annual seniors entertainment showcase. Included in the lineup are ballroom dancers and cloggers and a wealth of musical ensembles, among them country, folk, barbershop, Celtic and choral groups, along with bands of every imaginable description, from brass and dance to polka and fiddle.

Comedy, magic and a few fabulous surprises promise to make this the biggest and best event ever. Door prizes and a draw for a trip to Spain for two are all part of the fun. Broadcaster and writer Bill McNeil, who has won countless fans as the "Voice of the Pioneer," and who hosted CBC Radio's Fresh Air for more than 20 years, will once again do the honours as Master of Ceremonies.

Tickets for the tenth anniversary Royal Bank Seniors Jubilee are available from the Roy Thomson Hall box office or by calling (416) 872-4255. Bookings for groups of 20 more can be made by calling (416) 593-4822, ext. 225.

Comedy duo takes stage at Father's

Two for the Show will return to Father's Steakhouse tomorrow for another off-the-wall performance.

This musical comedy duo - Rob Tyler and Allan Mackay - are regulars at the local pub, playing there the first Friday of the month.

Father's owner Bill Roskar is a huge supporter of the local pair. The pub is even listed as a sponsor on Two for the Show's debut CD, called Two for the Show - Finally Released.

When performing, the men use props to assist them in their show. For instance, Mackay will don a Bob Marley wig and hat while singing One Love, Sur It Up and No Woman No Cry.

In addition to playing popular music, Tyler and Mackay also display their song-writing abilities through their original music.

Two for the Show, Finally Released will be for sale for \$10 at Father's. There is no cover charge for the show.



Rob Tyler and Allan Mackay are regulars at Father's.

Time travel at Embassy Suites

This summer, guests at Markham's Embassy Suites hotel will get a little taste of local history with their breakfast.

Markham Museum is teaming up with the hotel to present a display of artifacts in the hotel's breakfast room.

Roger White, general manager at Embassy Suites, expects more than 600 people a day will see the displays and find out about summer activities at the museum.

"This is a great opportunity for us to show visitors to Markham some of the interesting artifacts we have," said Joanne Reynolds, museum curator.

"And there's a lot more to see once you're at the museum."

Summer admission to the museum includes a guided tour of the 25-acre historic village, visiting homes, shops, church, railway and more.

On Wednesdays during August, the museum hosts summer sizzle from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring crafts and activities for ages 3 and up.

There's also an antique tool auction scheduled for Aug. 29.

Markham Museum & Historic Village is located on the west side of Hwy. 48, two kilometres north of Hwy. 7.

The Embassy Suites hotel is at Hwy. 7, at Warden Avenue, and the museum exhibit will be on display for the rest of this month.

Juried show opens at Varley gallery

The Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery has opened the second annual juried exhibition this week.

The show, featuring 41 artists from Markham and York Region, opened yesterday at the Main Street, Unionville gallery, and will continue to Oct. 4.

The selections were made from 184 works submitted by 98 artists.

The jurors were seeking works that demonstrate personal statements with impact, energy and uniqueness. Works are featured in acrylic, charcoal, oil, pastel, watercolour, mixed media, lithography and photography.

Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday evening to 8 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information call 477-9511.

MYT seeks warehouse

Markham Youth Theatre seeks a large area for building sets.

MYT crews hope to build sets for the upcoming production of How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying starting around Aug. 24, and construction will last about five weeks, until Oct. 5.

Any person or business willing to donate the use of an empty building or warehouse area can contact producer Tim Hawco at 294-7270.

Annual York Region Juried Exhibition

AUGUST 12 TO OCTOBER 4, 1998



THE FREDERICK HORSMAN VARLEY
ART GALLERY OF MARKHAM

216 Main Street (at Carlton and Main), Unionville
Ontario, L3R 2H7 Telephone 905-477-9511

LOOK WHO'S AT FATHERS THIS WEEKEND

Friday, August 8th

TWO FOR THE SHOW

The hilarious stand-up comedy and music routine

Corner of Hwy. 7 and McCowan Rd. (905) 294-0134



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