



Joan Ransberry

# A little Sunday jam can soothe the soul

Sunday is the day to take care of the soul. Choice is with us: soul tending is carried out in our churches in the morning and in our pubs in the afternoon.

If I go to church, I don't pray. If I go to a pub, I don't drink. I go to both for the music. I need it. Music looks after my soul.

Every third Sunday of the month, about 20 musicians from across York Region drop into the upstairs room in downtown Stouffville's The Earl of Whitchurch pub for a jam session.

Acoustic jam is the brainchild of musician Pierre Bordeleau. A French Canadian, Mr. Bordeleau shares his hometown of Shawinigan, Que., with Prime Minister Jean Chretien. Now living in York Region, Mr. Bordeleau's day job is in the technical end of the film industry. On weekends, Mr. Bordeleau steps up to the microphone to salute the likes of The Beatles, ZZ Top, The Tragically Hip and Crowded House.

Last fall, Mr. Bordeleau put out a call in York Region's music community. He was about to launch a Sunday afternoon jam session. The local musicians answered the call.



**BOB VOPNI:** Detroit-trained blues guitarist takes part in Sunday jam sessions at the Earl of Whitchurch pub in downtown Stouffville

The jam session involves folk, blues, jazz, country and the sounds of the '60s, '70s and '80s. The musicians sing their own and borrow from the giants: The Beatles, Eric Clapton, The Eagles, Jefferson Airplane, The Doobie Brothers, The Rolling Stones, The Carpenters, the Allman Brothers Band, Janis Joplin, Van Morrison, The Mamas and the Papas and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

By the nature of the beast, musicians love to jam. It's good for their soul. Our soul will get the next fix this Sunday at The Earl.

On stage, Tom Davis of Toronto is often joined by Stouffville resident Mike Colby. Together, they'll sing John Denver's "Back Home Again." Mr. Davis and Mr. Colby are happy people and their music reflects it.

Don Maitland is the key official with the Ministry of the Environment in York Region. By day, he oversees the region's environmental needs. On the weekend, Mr. Maitland wears a different hat. A resident of Musselman's Lake, this accomplished musician joins his wife Marion Dexler in song.

Ms Dexler has a powerful, well-disciplined and haunting voice. Canadian women are kicking butt on the world stage. Ms Dexler's talent is such that she belongs on the international stage.

Cris Cuddy is a known fixture in the community. He works at the liquor store in Stouffville. But when Mr. Cuddy picks up his guitar, liquor is the last thing on anyone's mind.

When the jazz man gave birth to the blues, I bet Mr. Cuddy's ancestors witnessed the blessed event. Here's a man with music in his genes.

Bob Vopni, a blues and jazz musician, got his start in Detroit close to 40 years ago. It was called "finger style," then and it's called "finger style" now. Mr. Vopni is a musician's musician. He knows his way around a song. When Mr. Vopni performed, my soul did a little jig.

If you attend the jam, make sure Ivanka and David Bradley and their daughter Rachael and Rob Pare, Mike Bossi and Mr. Bordeleau sing "California Dreaming." They've done it before. They'll do it again. And when Miss Bradley, complete with her amazing Celtic looks, sings, "Do It Again" by Steely Dan, you can hear a pin drop.

The jam session begins at 2:30 p.m. It's non-stop music until 6:30 p.m. Since music is good for the soul, I'll be there.



Thu., Feb. 28

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THURSDAY MORNINGS

8:00 a.m. Hwy. 7 & Woodbine

8:05 a.m. Markville Main Entrance

8:15 a.m. Markham Railroad Station

8:25 a.m. Stouffville Legion

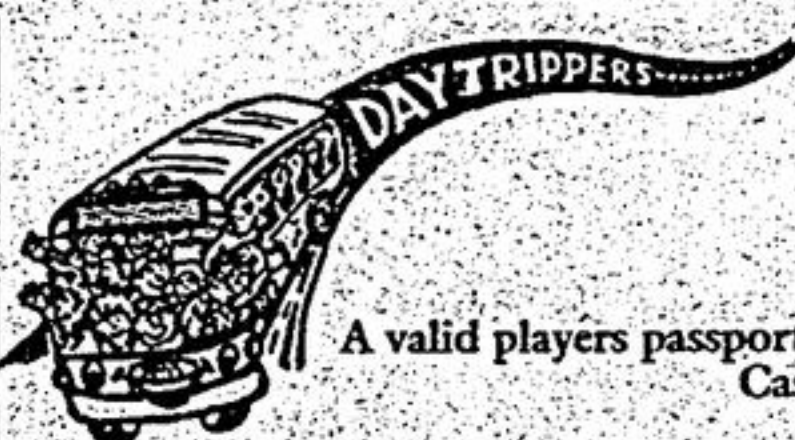
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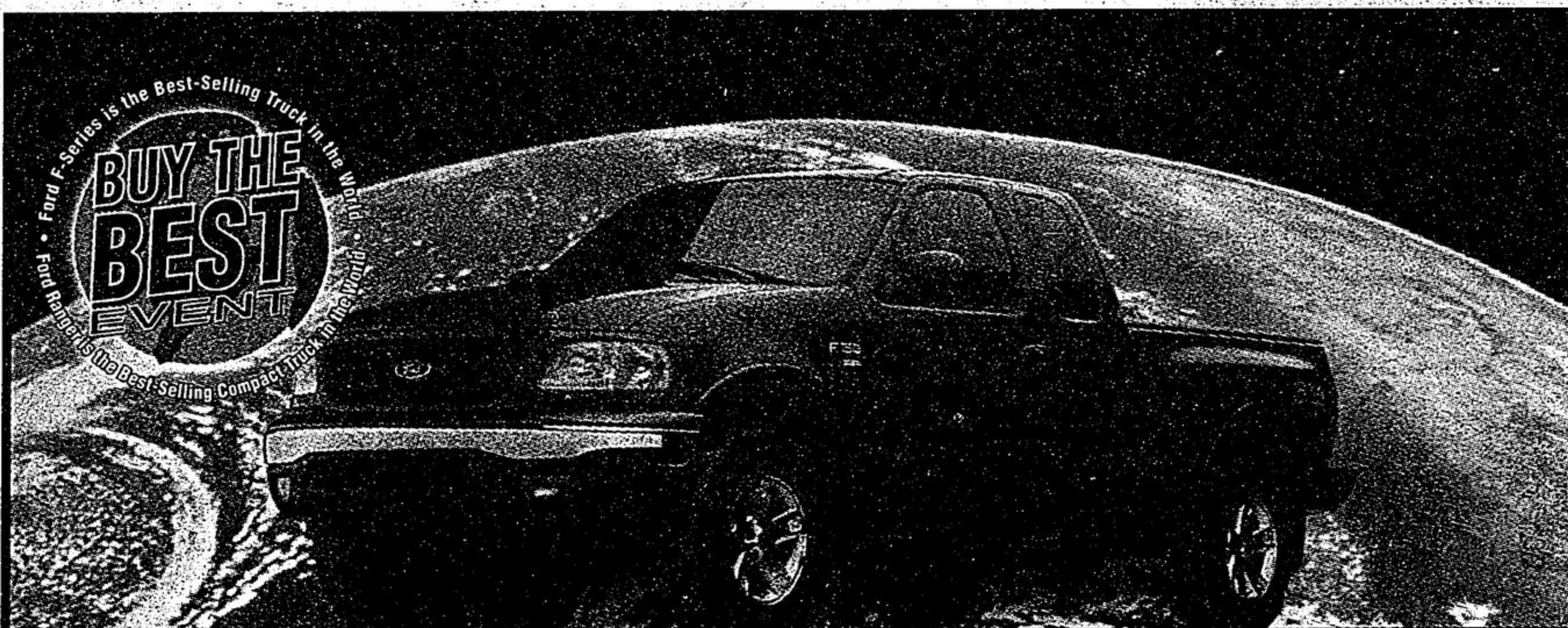
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