

Theatre presents Messiah

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the spirit of the season. Schomberg dresses itself up beautifully for the event, with pine-draped lamp posts, decorated storefronts and thousands of little lights twinkling from seemingly everywhere. And if you're really lucky, you'll visit on an afternoon when soft snowflakes are falling to enhance the atmosphere.

One of Christmas' most cherished classics is Handel's masterpiece, The Messiah. This year, the Markham Theatre for the Performing Arts, a modern facility at the northwest corner of Warden Avenue and Hwy. 7, will host a rendition by the internationally renowned ensemble, the Elmer Iseler Singers. The choir's annual Christmas performance at St. James Cathedral in downtown Toronto has become a much-loved tradition for many years, but this is a unique opportunity to see the choir close to home.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. Dec. 13. Tickets cost \$46 and can be ordered at 905-305-7469 or 1-866-768-8801.

Both the Newmarket Festival of Lights and Living Nativity Pageant are held at Fairy Lake Park in Newmarket. The lights will be on nightly from Dec. 13 to 29 from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are welcome and will go toward park improvements.

The 15th annual Live Nativity Pageant is presented once again by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the Town of Newmarket.

An outdoor play that acts out the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, this event is well worth braving the cold. It reminds us of the reason for the season. Performances are held Dec. 21, 22 and 23 at 7 and 8 p.m. with a final encore on Dec. 24 at 7 pm.

Save room for dessert

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guine pescatore (although the agnolotti stuffed with squash and sundried tomatoes and topped with goat cheese came in a close second) and, at the suggestion of our waiter, the veal scaloppini alla mama, a house specialty.

The linguine was, again, perfection; a heaping mound of al dente pasta surrounded by steamed mussels and topped with a general helping of clams, scallops and shrimp.

Make sure you save room for dessert. The varied selection includes both premise-prepared delights such as panna cotta and crème brulee, as well as perennial favourites such as caramel crunch cake and lemon sorbet.

Tora Ristorante Trattoria is located at 13311 Yonge St., Aurora. For more details or to make reservations, call 905-773-2188. Contact Sheryl Greenspan at newsroom@ecosun.com



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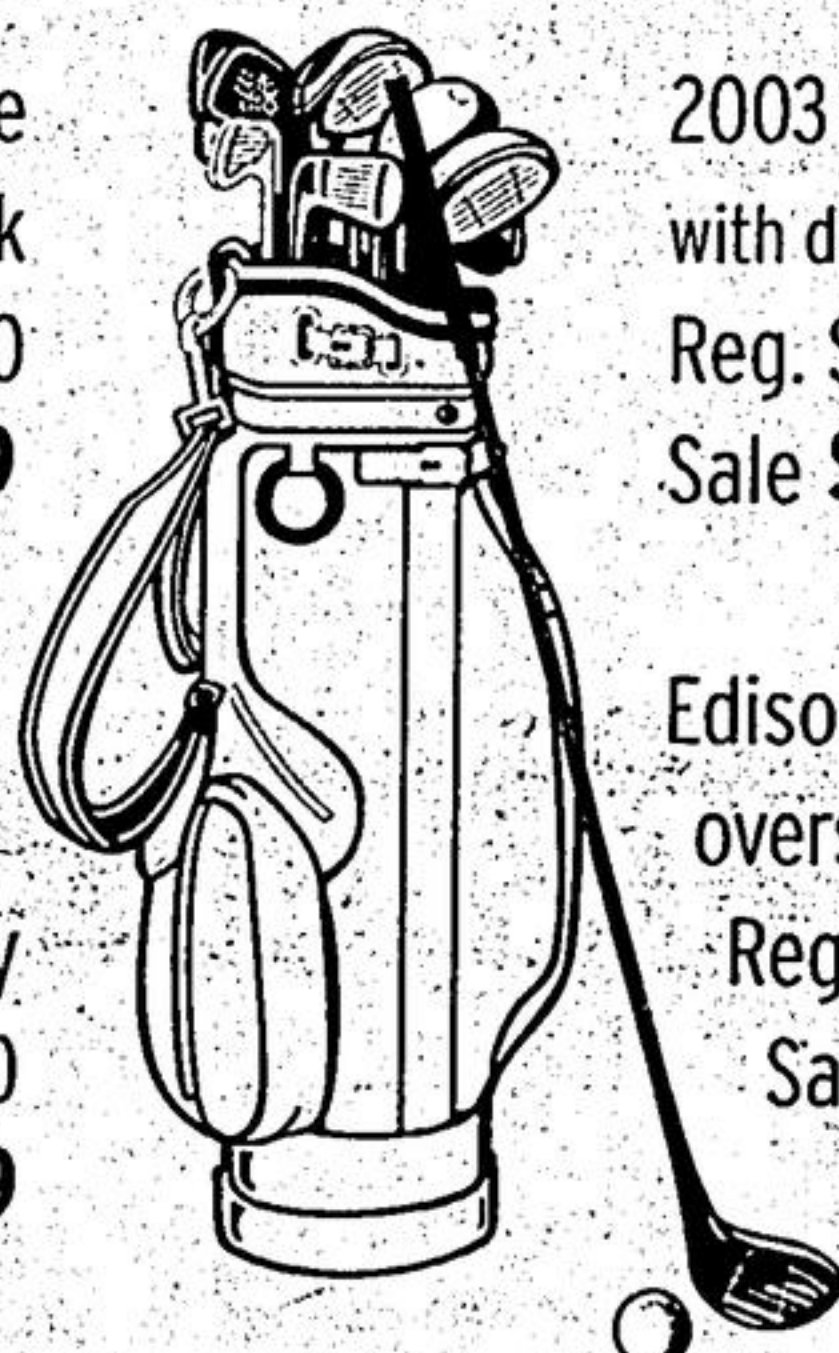
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