

Economist & Sun/Sun-Tribune

DIVERSIONS



Cheryl Greenspan

Notes on a Napkin

Italian eatery worth drive north

Mama Mia Trattoria

Location: 17415 Yonge St., Newmarket

Phone: 905-895-3433

Type: Italian

Price Range: Entrees start at \$9.95

Hours: Closed Monday

Reservations: recommended for weekends

When I began writing about restaurants in York Region, it was my hope to provide examples of fine establishments featuring cuisine from around the world right in our own back yard.

I was, however, cautioned the people of York Region are more inclined to travel south, so restaurants featured in Thornhill would draw from Richmond Hill, Aurora and even Newmarket, but it would be a harder sell to get a Thornhill resident to travel any further north than Richmond Hill.

That's a shame.

Mama Mia Trattoria is definitely worth the drive to Newmarket, where it has been a proud part of the community for almost seven years.

Upon entering, I was pleasantly surprised by the rustic Italian charm of the décor — classic Italian art placed on the ceiling as well as the walls and wooden tables with mismatched chairs all adding to the authentic trattoria feel.

The nicely balanced menu is filled with both classic offerings of pasta, risotto, meats and fish as well as a variety

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HIGH-TECH HIJACKING

File-sharing fans raise ire of musicians

BY SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Writer

When Gregg Lawless heard the fan he cringed.

"I love your show, I can't wait to hear your music. When I get home, I'm going to see if I can download it for free from the Internet."

The Aurora-born songwriter and producer does not know how much music downloading has cost him in lost CD sales. But based on the number of people who have come up to him after concerts, admitting they plan to obtain his music online, he knows his bottom line has been affected by what he considers high-tech piracy.

It costs about \$20,000 to record a CD, said Mr. Lawless, who owns and runs a label called Grafton Music.

It often costs consumers nothing to 'rip' this music off of the Internet.

Mr. Lawless is passionate about how unjust this is.

You cannot walk into a car dealership and take a car because you feel like it, so why is it OK to do this with music, he asked.

"Taking anything without permission is stealing," he added.

File sharing, where a person has a music file they lend to others over a

shared network, has cost the Canadian music industry about \$250 million in sales in the past three years, according to the Canadian Recording Industry Association.

The association has taken strides to crack down on culprits.

It filed a motion in February 2004 requesting Internet service providers reveal the names of 29 uploaders who posted hundreds of songs on the Internet via file sharing networks. The association wanted to sue them for copyright infringement.

A judge denied this motion a month later. Downloading a song for personal use does not break copyright laws; putting a song in an online music sharing directory such as Kazaa is not illegal distribution, ruled Justice Konrad von

Finckenstein. He compared downloading and uploading music to using a photocopier in a library.

This issue was not fairly argued because the music industry did not have a chance to voice its opinion, said Graham Henderson, president of The Canadian Recording Industry Association. Also, since this was a minor decision made in a motions court, rather than in a trial court, the ruling "doesn't have the force of law", he said.

"If you ask any Internet lawyer, he'll tell you that was a dodgy decision."

So the association has appealed and is waiting for a hearing, believed

to be set for April.

Meanwhile, the introduction of legal downloading sites, where songs can often be obtained for 99 cents each, is positive for the industry, Mr. Henderson said.

"It's long overdue... That answered the excuses teenagers give: 'There's

See RICH, page 17.

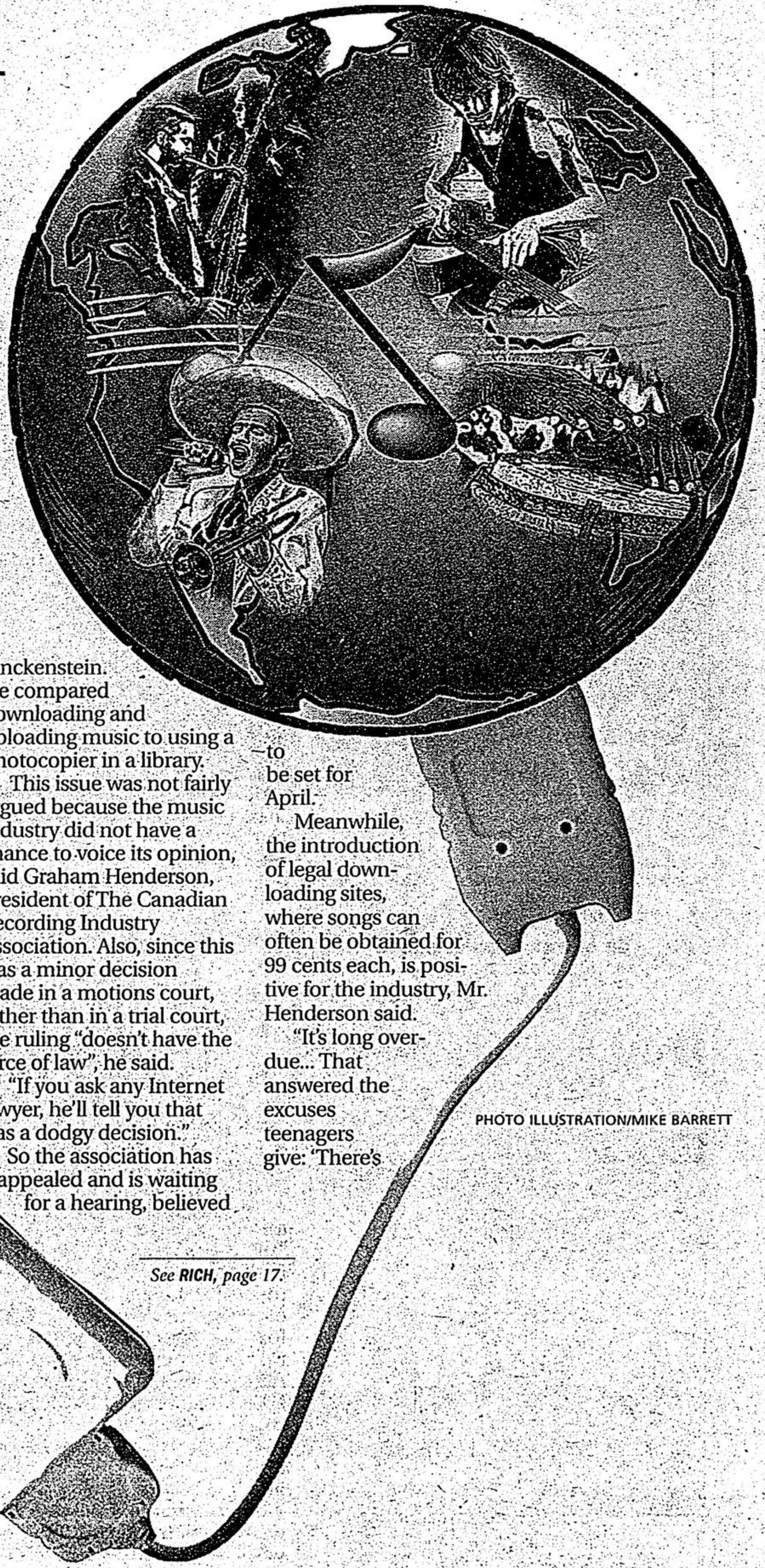


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