

# Head over heels about Shania

It's no secret to loyal column readers that when it comes to entertainers, Shania Twain heads my personal popularity poll. It's been this way since I first met her 11 years ago at Newmarket's Upper Canada Mall.

"There's a lady going places," I said to myself. At the time, I was the centre's chief of security and you can be sure I guarded her well, hovering over the autograph-signing table for two hours.

As the session concluded, she signed a photo just for me, a keepsake I'll always cherish. However, my infatuation with Shania didn't end there.

As she continued to gain superstar status, not only in North America but around the world, I penned a letter to Oak-Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert, nominating the Timmins native as an officer of the Order of Canada.

Mr. Wilfert responded, voicing agreement and saying he'd already passed on my recommendation to MP Sheila Copps, the next government official in charge. That was four years ago. I felt sure it had died on the vine.

However, to my surprise, the phone rang Nov. 18. It was Mr. Wilfert, calling from Ottawa.

"You did it," he said, or words to that effect. "Shania will be honoured tomorrow."

While Mr. Wilfert was indeed generous, I'm not taking the credit. Shania undoubtedly had thousands of supporters. But I was one, an extremely proud one.

Her autographed photo, received a decade ago, has taken on a whole new glow.

## BUNNY TOO POOPED

For several seasons, it was my privilege to assume the role of a pink rabbit and travel the Santa Claus Parade trail. Unfortunately, this won't happen Saturday.

Following open-heart surgery, I'm still too pooped to hop the two-mile route. But where there's life, there's hope. Today, I e-mailed the North Pole, requesting Santa's permission to climb aboard Rudolph for a free parade ride.

## TRUSTEE ABSENTEES

They were noticeable by their absence. Despite the fact the Student Music Scholarship committee has raised more than \$46,000 for area schools, assisting their music programs, neither the York Region public nor Catholic boards of education could spare a trustee to attend the 13th annual concert Nov. 4.

In all fairness, public board chairperson Bill



**Roaming Around**

with Jim Thomas

Crothers did deliver a message of apology. The Catholic board didn't reply. John McMurray and Harry Bowes, where are you?

## IT'S BEAUTIFUL

The congregation of Christ Church Anglican in Stouffville, has just cause to be proud. Its new \$1.8 million addition, including a 300-seat auditorium and stage, is magnificent.

But there's more — a modern kitchen; an enlarged church school; additional office space; a new library and lounge; a carpeted sanctuary and new choir risers.

Lenten dinners that hosted 900 patrons last year will re-convene in the new facility. The annual spring pantomime, held previously in Latcham Hall, will be moved.

## TICKET PRICES

Regular patrons of Toronto Maple Leaf hockey games are familiar with ticket prices charged today. A check of the Internet revealed an Air-Canada low of \$138 and a high of \$385 a seat.

What a difference 63 years makes. A glance-back through an NHL scrapbook of 1942 disclosed the following: Maple Leaf Gardens, opening game Stanley Cup playoffs, New York Rangers vs. Toronto Maple Leafs. General admission 60 cents. Reserved seats 90 cents, \$1.75, \$2.50 and \$3.

## NIGHT-TIME RELIEF

Attempting to obtain a good night's sleep has been a problem since my open-heart surgery. No, counting sheep hasn't helped. But an invention by Stouffville's Olive Hutchinson surely has.

It's an oat-filled back, neck and foot-warmer. All one must do is place the comforter, in a micro-wave, then apply it to the pain. Presto!

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 50 years.

# SMOKED PORK HOCKS

As you know by now, we have copious amounts of these beauties prior to the holidays because for every ham that we make, there's a hock. They're meatier than usual, slow smoked over oak and delicious as can be! While quantities last.

**1.49** lb.

# WHAT'S FOR DINNER!

For this week, our frozen entrée feature will be our chicken curry — which just needs to be defrosted and warmed — and perhaps served with one of the many kinds of rice that we sell.

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

Serves 2 - 4  
Reg. \$13.95 ea.

# WHAT'S HAPPENIN' OUTSIDE!

We have now received our final shipment of outdoor wreaths, boughs, and planters. If you are like the shark on the National Geographic show, and you've been circling and circling, it's time to bite.

# WHAT'S HAPPENIN' INSIDE!

Our centre display island is slowly filling up with some neat chocolates and sweets — more to come yet. The fruitcake has been cut and it's ready, Grethe's cheese apples have made the scene, sausage rolls with puff pastry (very homemade) are available, tourtières, our bass ale mincemeat, baked bries and bountiful amounts of really neat English, French and yes, Quebecois cheese is now available. What a great time of the year!

# DEGGPLANT DIP

We sell many kinds of dip in our little store, but my fave (after Dorcen's spinach dip) is eggplant dip — which I must say is as unlike eggplant as anything can be, or so it seems to me. It's great with just about any cracker or bread (or chip) that we sell.

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

Reg. \$2.09 / 100 g

# DESSERT PITAS

I know that many of you read my dissertation on dessert pitas a few weeks ago because we sold a whole lot of them. They're back this week — and the flavours will be apple cinnamon, cherry, peach, strawberry-rhubarb, raspberry and blueberry. We make them with our own puff pastry — you'll need two hands to eat them — and I'll bet that you'll need two because they're so good.

**3.99** each

# TOUR TERIYAKI SALMON

From our little fish counter we'll be featuring our teriyaki salmon. It's made with totally boneless Jail Island salmon fillets, our homemade teriyaki sauce (with sherry) and lots of dotting. It's a delicious dinner.

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

# CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS!

I was watching Jaana make some of these for her tree and I was blown away with how beautiful they are. She baked some extra-thick gingerbread snowflakes and decorated them and equipped them with a ribbon to hang them on your tree. This is a one-time deal, available only this week — I've been told. You'll find snowflakes, trees and candy canes — ranging in price from ..... **1.99 to 3.99** each

# APPLE ALLSPICE SAUSAGES

This is a milder dinner sausage that we make with coarse ground pork and Spy apples — finished with a touch of cinnamon and allspice.

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

# BERRIES!

We'll have a special on fresh berries this week. You'll be able to get South American Blueberries or Driscoll California Raspberries. Mix or match.

**1.99** container

# TURKEY & RICE SOUP

If you have ever waited in the turkey line-up at Christmas, you'll be surprised to know that we sell more turkeys cut-up throughout the year than the number that we sell whole. The vast majority of those which we process are to make the deli turkey roasts — so with the other parts we make this amazing old-fashioned and hardy soup — just like you'd make at home but in much bigger quantities (I think).

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

# MANGOES

These are formidably-sized mangoes that come from Ecuador — which is currently very warm. Our original intent was to sell them for 99¢ each, but I thought you'd feel guilty when you saw the size of these, so we chose ..... **1.29** ca.

SPECIALS IN EFFECT UNTIL CLOSING SUNDAY DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>

Hours:  
Mon. 11:00-7:00 ~ Tues.-Thurs. 9:00-7:00 ~ Fri. 9:00-8:00  
Sat. 9:00-6:00 ~ Sun. 10:00-5:00  
548 Carlton Road, Unionville  
**940-1770**

