

Local guitar legend brings his Thursday best to Kingfest

BY ERNIE MARSHALL

Special

Local music legend Lou Moore will be among those entertaining the throngs expected at Kingfest Music Festival this June.

But who is this guy? If you haven't heard of Mr. Moore, he's one of those guys who has dedicated his life to music and has played with just about everybody, a guy who likes to have a good time making sure you have a good time. It's all about Thursday

nights and the cottage.

When Mr. Moore got married more than two decades ago, he and his wife bought a cottage in the Haliburton Highlands.

It was a wreck and there were no amenities, but he made it so comfortable, he promised his wife they would try to spend every weekend there.

If you know anything about professional musicians, weekends are their bread and butter, but Mr. Moore came up with a plan—

teach music during the week, put on a show Thursday night and then head for the hills.

There are some exceptions, such as the Kingfest gig next month, which he is excited about.

At Kingfest, Mr. Moore will be in his element, performing alongside peers such as guitar champ and all-round funny guy Wendell Ferguson and fiddler J.P. Allen of Prairie Oyster.

Beyond that, if you want to catch his act, do it on a Thursday night.

His latest home base is the King Henry Arms on Yonge Street in Aurora.

Every week there is a featured artist, such as Steve Riggs of the Beebop Cowboys, Mr. Ferguson, Al Cross, drummer for Big Sugar or harmonica player Roly Platt.

Every week is different, which keeps it fun for Mr. Moore. The foundation of

each performance is country, but it branches off into oldies, rock and roll, pop, blues, big band and even a little jazz.

Mr. Moore's influences are eclectic, from Chet Atkins to Django Reinhardt, Duke Ellington, Bill Munroe and all points in between.

The crowd tends to be a little on the older side, so

you will see the occasional touch of grey, singles, couples and groups.

He has a website (www.loumoore.com) and you can find videos on YouTube.

Lou Moore and Friends perform at the Kingfest Music Festival June 23. For details and tickets, visit www.kingfestmusic.com.

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