

Honouring the voice that captivated a town

Her angelic voice has captivated an entire community. And beyond.

For this reason, it should come as no surprise Susan Brown is Whitchurch-Stouffville's choice for the 2008 Music Town, Ontario award.

The presentation takes place June 25 in Stouffville United Church, featuring, along with Ms Brown, the 45-member Men of Note choir, directed by Dr. Margot Rejskind with accompanist Linda Marcinkus.

Pat Wild, last year's award recipient, will do the honours. Ms Wild is the organist and choir director at Stouffville United.

The 8 p.m. event marks the beginning of Strawberry Festival week here with activities concluding July 1 with a brilliant fireworks display.

Admission to the concert is free-will with net receipts going to the Student Music Scholarship Fund.

Donations will also be received for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank.

Ms Brown burst onto the music scene seven years ago when Men of Noter Hal Hill heard her beautiful voice during a Christmas cantata at Ebenezer United Church in Milliken.

He introduced her to the chorus, initiating a musical relationship that continues to this day.

Born in Riverview, N.B., where she received her early education, Ms Brown attended high school there, then entered a music program at the University of Moncton.

Her parents, Stephen and Martha Brown still live in Riverview.

A sister, Stephanie, resides in The Yukon.

In addition to the Men of Note, Ms Brown performs with the famed 160-voice Mendelssohn choir; the celebrated Mendelssohn Singers; the Harfentone German male choir; the Scholar Cantorum German mixed-voice choir and the Master Works choir of Oakville.

However, her greatest joy comes from attending concerts and services in local churches including Stouffville and Lemonville United, Christ Church, Anglican, St. James Presbyterian, Wideman Mennonite, Central United and Bethesda Lutheran in Unionville, Knox United and Knox Presbyterian in Agincourt and Ebenezer United.

Recently, she attended a fundraiser hosted by Parkview Home.

Also, by invitation, she sang at Stouffville's Eastern Gate community centre.

Susan began singing at age five. She was then a member of a children's choir in St. John's United Church in Moncton.

She later joined the Claude



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

D. Taylor Elementary School choir and the Hillsborough girls' chorus in junior high.

With respect to the Music Town award, Ms Brown describes the nomination as a big surprise.

"It's an honour and a delight to be embraced by an entire community; to be selected among so many talented musicians," she says.

She plans to participate in the June 28 Strawberry Festival parade.

Tonight, she headlines a 7:30 p.m. concert at Central United in Unionville, with free-will donations going to support a medical mission trip to Ghana.

Farther afield, Susan's sung for Rita MacNeil at her coffee house in Cape Breton, in The Yukon where she appeared on local TV and in Carnegie Hall with the Mendelssohn Singers.

She's traveled extensively with the Men of Note including England, Wales, France and Germany.

She recently recorded three CDs.

Despite an operatic background, Ms Brown retains a deep love of gospel music including such classics as The Old Rugged Cross, In the Garden, The Holy City and The Lord's Prayer.

"Like family" is the way she describes the Men of Note. She considers it a privilege to belong.

The feeling's mutual, says chorus president Dick Bird. The vice-president is Gary Burke, the treasurer Don Jackson and the secretary Gordon Bibby.

The chorus was created in 1999 by past-president Dave Duggan and director Doug Walker.

In the beginning, there were only 17 members. This number has grown to 45.

The chorus performs about 12 concerts a year. Its repertoire includes everything from anthems to ballads.

On June 25, however, the spotlight is on Ms Brown, a woman whose exceptional vocal presence and engaging personality has, in the past seven years, captivated this community.

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

PORK BACK RIBS

We'll have our back ribs on sale this week at the meat counter — and hopefully we'll have enough. I say this because we've run out of the meat feature a bit early the last couple of weeks.

What makes our back ribs so good? First, we buy more marbled pork — that streakiness makes them more tender and juicy. Secondly, we don't have that insipid little tail hanging from the one end (you would normally pay full price for it if you shopped elsewhere). Thirdly, our pork is not 'seasoned', which means that it's not cut from pork loins which have been injected with water and phosphate to make them juicier (just imagine the thinking behind that); and lastly, our price is very competitive because we cut our own pork.

So think ribs this week — perhaps with our Montgomery Inn Sauce — or any other.

We have lots to choose from!

They'll be good!

Reg. \$8.95 lb **25% OFF THIS WEEK**

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

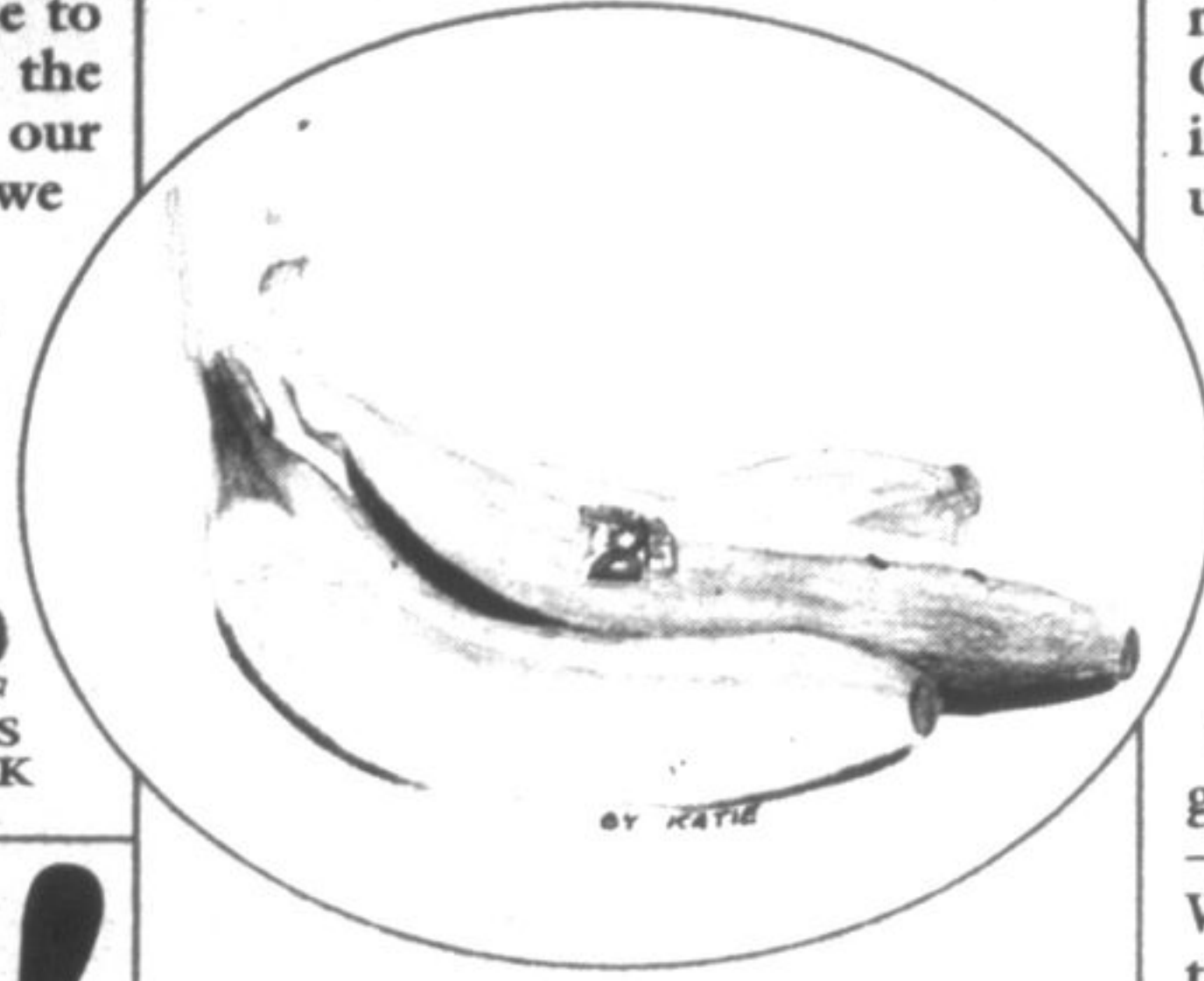
For dinner this week it's curry — 2 types in fact. We'll have a feature on our lamb curry and our chicken curry — both very popular dishes. You'll just need to heat these and serve them with rice — of which we have many types to choose from.

Lamb Reg. \$19.95

Chicken Reg. \$15.95

Either will serve 3 or 4 folk.

25% OFF THIS WEEK



WE'VE GONE FISHING!

Mike and Charlie have arranged a feature on Pacific Snapper for this week. This is a fish with a delicate, nutty sweet flavour; it's lean and has a medium-firm texture. At this time of the year it comes from either our West Coast or the American West Coast. Price will be ... — and we'll have recipes!

7.95 LB. THIS WEEK

SEEDLESS ENGLISH CUKES!

Like most every other product, there are different qualities of English cukes available. The best are those which are 'hand-wrapped' — they are the cream of the crop which have been selected as the best. The second best are machine-wrapped, which go through a heat tunnel to shrink the plastic wrap (bad for any produce), and the third quality are 'utilities' which are of irregular size and form. We sell 'hand wrapped' whenever we can throughout the year — and they are now back for the season.

Large size. Ontario grown! **99¢ Ea.**

GRAPE CHERRY TOMATOES

These sweet little nuggets of flavour have replaced croutons in our salads at home. For a bit of added richness in flavour, flambé them in some brandy and then use them as a 'side' or in your salad — but stand back while the fire's happening, if your eyebrows are important to you!

Full Pint! Ontario Grown. **1.99 ea.**

WHAT'S NEW IN PRODUCE!

Local strawberries are now available, as well as fresh peas, some lettuce from the 'marsh', radishes, zucchini and probably more when we show up at the produce market at 3 am tomorrow.

WHAT'S COOKIN' AT THE DELI ...

Firstly, we'll be making a whole bunch of our old-time broccoli and cauliflower salad. If you don't have time to cook a serving of veggies, these will do just fine. It's freshly made at least once a day, feature price this week will be 1/3 off regular price. The second item that they're making is a chicken chili. To make this we use our ground free-range chicken, onions, peppers, herbs and spices. You'll find that this dish is mild to medium in heat.

SAGE & ONION SAUSAGES

We'll be featuring our old-fashioned Sage & Onion Sausages. This is an English recipe going back a long way. That they're still with us is a testament to how good they are. They're mild and have no garlic, if that's important to you. These can either be oven-roasted, or grilled to perfection.

Reg. \$3.99 lb. **25% OFF THIS WEEK**

WHAT'S HAPPENIN' OUTSIDE!

By the time you read this, we will have received a beauty shipment of lupins. These are showing bud, so you'll be able to plant them and enjoy them this season — and all the next, nature willing. We have many of these in our garden and their blooming is quite a thrill — and it's happening as we speak. The farmer who grows these also has delphiniums — and some of those will be here as well. They, like lupins, have a really nice early season show. We'll also be receiving a quantity of 6" size gardenias; something that many of you have been looking for. Coming also are some 5" geraniums in assorted colours to complete some unfinished areas — they will be the last.

In order to find a good home for some of our remainders, we'll have a 1/2 price sale — have a look in the corner of the lot for a lot of bargains.

Further, although the hail and the wind has taken a toll on our pet banana tree, you will see that it's growing a few bunches of bananas — nature is not easily discouraged. We also have a few smaller banana trees for you to grow your own, should you choose.

WHAT'S BAKING? THIS WEEK ...

The theme this week is 'black and white', and we'll be making ...

VANILLA FROSTED CHOCOLATE CAKES - These are triple deckers of rich dark chocolate cake filled with a buttery vanilla frosting, then decorated with big, fluffy 'swoops' of frosting and dark chocolate drizzle.
Two sizes, small \$14.95
and large \$22.95

BROWNIE CHEESECAKES - This is a creamy vanilla cheesecake studded with chunks of our chocolate brownie, all 'cradled' in an oreo crumb crust. It has an intense but smooth chocolate flavour with a hint of mellow vanilla in the background.
Two sizes, \$14.95 and \$22.95

CHOCOLATE REVERSE COOKIES - These are dark chocolate cookies with big white chocolate chunks \$8.95 container.

MARBLED CHOCOLATE LOAVES - These are coffee (or tea) loaves that we make, this time with a marbled swirl. It's for those of you who are indecisive — should I get chocolate or should I get vanilla — or maybe 1 of each.
Reg. \$5.99 ea.

BLACK AND WHITE MOUSSE CUPS - This is our weekly 'flourless' option. They are rich, creamy and very light in texture. We swirl both the dark and light and garnish them with a strawberry.
Reg. \$3.99, including a .50¢ deposit on the china ramekin.

All these items will be featured this week at ... **25% OFF THIS WEEK**

the VILLAGE GROCER
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