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LATCHAM GALLERY PHOTO Hamilton native Tor Lukasik-Foss sings at the opening of his exhibition at the Latcham Gallery in Stouffville last Thursday. It's on until July 25.

Driftwood art at centre stage

BY SANDRA BOLAN sbolan@yrmg.com

One man's trash is another person's treasure, or in this case, art.

Hamilton native Tor Lukasik-Foss utilized reclaimed wood from old homes, as well as pieces that washed up onto the shore of Lake Ontario to create Latcham Gallery's newest exhibition - See The Forest.

"What's at the heart of it for me is the material I'm using," said the 41year-old self-taught sculpturist. "I'm using, in any other circumstance, what is considered junk."

From the reclaimed wood, as well as a portion of a QEW Niagara highway sign, Mr. Lukasik-Foss constructed four trees that double as mini stages engulfed by 'leaves.'

"I make these things to stand alone as sculptures. but I'm also intrigued about using them as performance vehicles," he said. "It's challenging for the performer, challenging for the audience."

This dual purpose art is why gallery curator Maura Broadhurst brought Mr. Lukasik-Foss to Latcham Gallery.

"Is it a performance if you have no audience or if you can't see the audience?" Ms Broadhurst said. "You can take away the whole performance aspect and just have the sculptures, but it's more engaging and more clever because of the interactive portion."

At the show's opening last Thursday, Mr. Lukasik-Foss sang with members of Stouffville's Music Mania group positioned in the stages. The artist, who also fronts a band, later sang solo.

See The Forest will be at Latcham Gallery, 6240 Main St., until July 25. www.latchamgallery.ca



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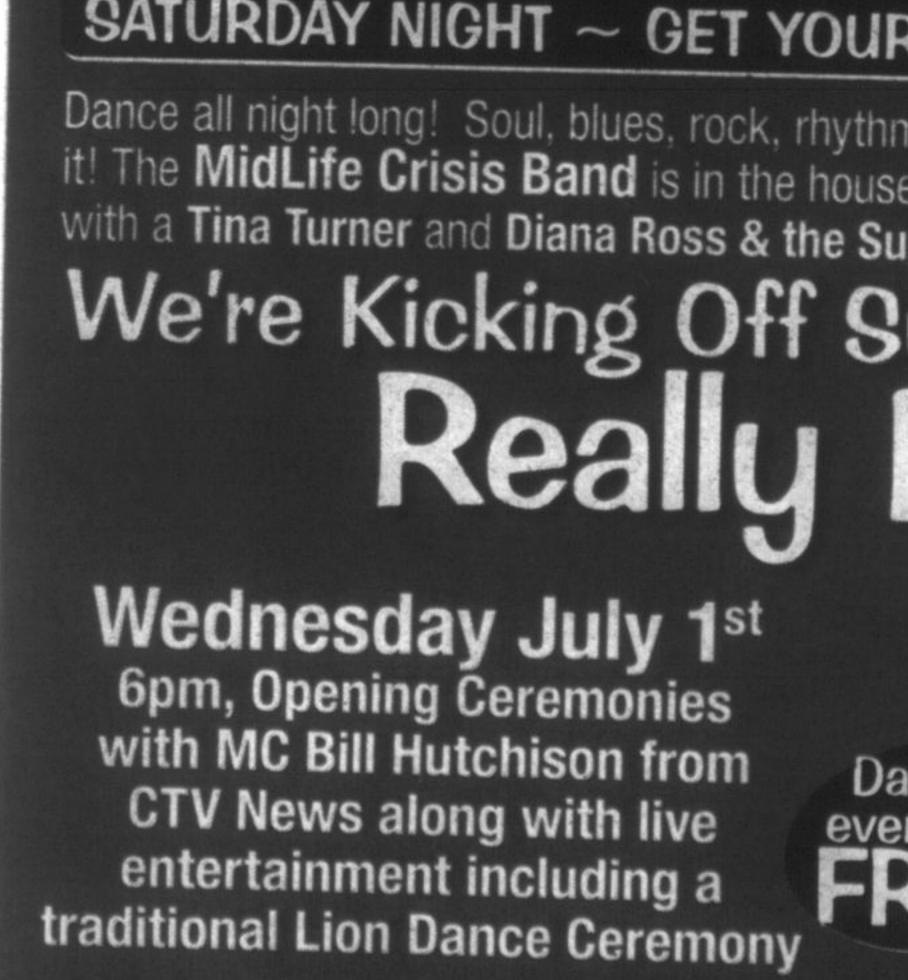
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