

COMING UP

Music not stopping for exiting jam session founder



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

Pierre Bordeleau (left) and Mike Burns at last month's open acoustic jam at The Earl.

BY SANDRA BOLAN
sbolan@yrmg.com

It's the end of an era at The Earl of Whitechurch as the Acoustic Open Jam with Pierre comes to end.

"I've done what I could with what I had. It's time to get something fresh. ... Let's open up a new door," said Pierre Bordeleau, founder of the Sunday afternoon acoustic open jam, which ends June 19. "It will find its own destiny. Somebody is bound to pick up the slack. ... Only time will tell."

The Uxbridge resident started the acoustic jam about 10 years ago with the intention of giving anyone who wanted to play, no matter their talent level, a stage to play on.

He kept the jams acoustic so as not to compete with the electric jams happening elsewhere in town and because "I can play six hours on my own if nobody shows up".

Over the past 10 years, people became better musicians thanks to Mr. Bordeleau and some even started bands together.

"It's evolved into some other places having music. For a musician that's a good thing because you get a place to play."

One person to gain confidence as a performer is police officer Mike Burns.

"One day I played ... I don't know how long ago, Pierre Bordeleau was standing there. I'll never forget it, after I finished performing my song, he looked at me and said: 'This is ridiculous, you really should be doing this for a living!'"

Despite the encouragement, Mr. Burns remains an amateur performer.

"I count Pierre as one of the strongest musi-

cal influences. ... Pierre makes every musician feel like a star."

The Shawinigan, Que., native started playing his older brother's guitar when he was about 12 years old.

"I would gently slide it out of the case and put it on the bed. I took his tie clip and made some noise. Most of the time I got caught," Mr. Bordeleau said with a laugh.

He was eventually allowed to buy his own guitar, an AGS from Sears.

Being a lefty proved challenging for the self-taught guitarist, preventing him from attending music school for guitar. So he opted to take flute and piano at CEGEP de Trois-Rivières, Que. He continued to play the guitar by ear.

Mr. Bordeleau left school before graduating and formed a number of bands that toured the bar circuit. He even did a short stint with Frozen Ghost in the late 1980s.

"You try to have a career, but life gets in the way," he said.

The former-Stouffville resident hasn't packed up his guitar for good. Now that his Sunday afternoons are free, Mr. Bordeleau will be spending more time with his other side projects, which include PDG, a classic rock power trio; Pierre & Andrew — an acoustic rock and blues duo in Uxbridge; Pierre & Tony, also an acoustic rock duo, as well as CCAU — the Cris Cuddy Acoustic Unit.

Open Acoustic Jam with Pierre — 10 Years of Jammin', Pierre & Co plus Special Guests takes place June 19 from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.

For more information, go to www.theearl-pub.ca/events.html

An Invitation to all Seniors to experience

A TASTE OF
Amica

Thursday, June 16th, 2011 ~ 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

We are Proud to Present ~ The 4th Annual ~ A Taste of Amica.

If you have never visited your neighbourhood Amica at Swan Lake Retirement Community, this is the day to satisfy your curiosity... and your taste buds! Throughout the day of June 16, we will showcase one of our true passions... the fine dining experience and the culinary excellence of our Chefs and staff. Join us any time during this complimentary day!

10:00 am to Noon - Self Serve Continental Breakfast

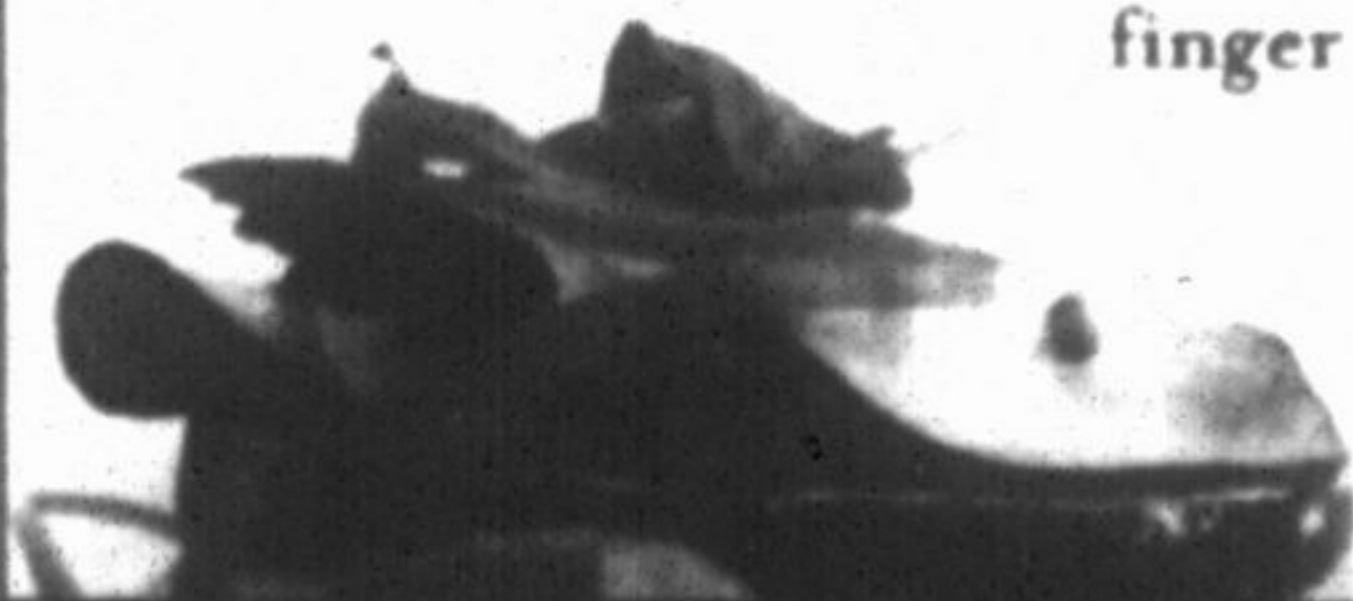
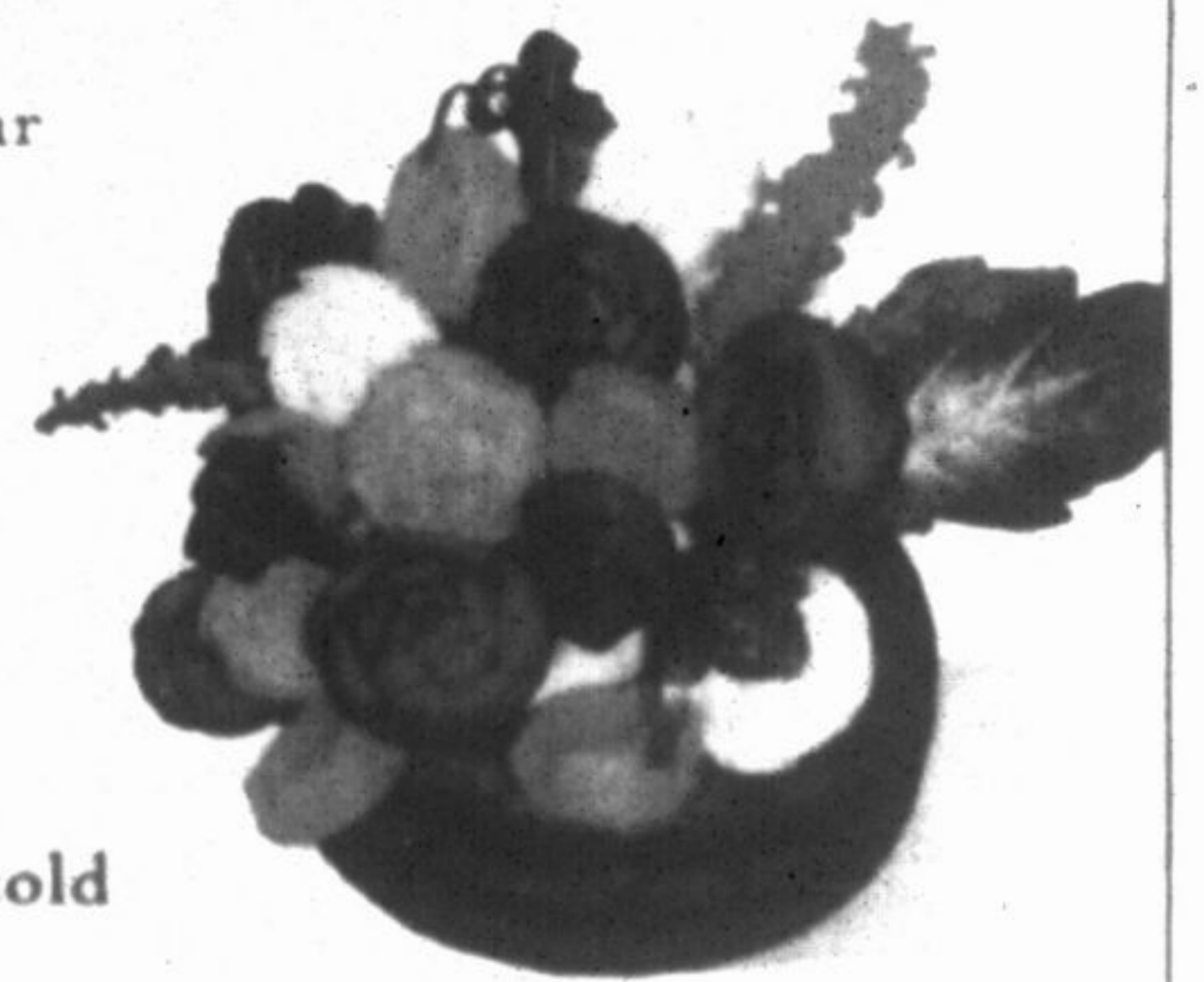
Fresh baked goods, juices, fresh fruits, herbal tea selection and coffee. Relax and enjoy your breakfast, then ask for a tour of our all-inclusive luxury retirement community.

Noon to 2:30 pm - Chef Action Stations

Our Chefs will serve carved roast on mini rolls or will feature a sauté station, a selection of hot and cold finger foods, vegetarian fare, pastries baked on-site, sparkling cocktails, teas and coffee.

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm - Chef Demonstrations & Food Sampling

Amica Chefs will showcase their talents and the secrets to preparing an assortment of delicacies using fresh local ingredients, to sample and enjoy!



Amica at Swan Lake • A Wellness & VitalitySM Residence
6360 16th Avenue, Markham, ON L3P 7Y6
905.201.6058 • www.amica.ca



AMICA
at Swan Lake