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OPINION

Jazz welcomed

BY PAUL J. YOUNGMAN

Buggy's Diner in Stouffville played host to jazz group North of Seven last month. The group returns this

This quartet, led by guitarist Scot Benson, son of renowned guitarist Gary Benson, co-founder of the iconic Canadian Jazz Quartet, performed three sets to an enthusiastic crowd. The band performed some jazz standards, bebop, bossa nova

Buggy's, at 6298 Main St. in the centre of town, did its best to turn their small diner into a jazz club.

The quartet took to the stage promptly at 8:30; the promo flyer indicated the end time was midnight. The band played with tight precision and a full sound. They produced quality tones from their instruments with a good sound mix.

The room itself needs some acoustic refinement, its bare, hardsurfaced structure created an echo that seemed to amplify the room. The few people who were at Buggy's to see the final World Series game had their voices amplified through the PA system. An investment in some acoustic dampening material

The quartet sounded especially good on the Miles Davis classic All Blues. They stayed very close to the original with the obvious exception of guitar and flute as the lead instruments. The flutist had a clean, clear and soothing sound with strong technique. The guitarist played a semi acoustic or arch top, he has a solid technical foundation and added a heavy swing component that opened up the songs and lent them dynamics and excitement. The drummer and bassist picked up on this energy and responded in kind.

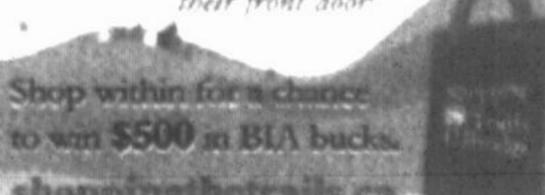
North of Seven played a lot of songs and one that really stood out for me was their version of Wayne

Here is hoping for more shows -north of Hwy. 7 starting Saturday.



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