

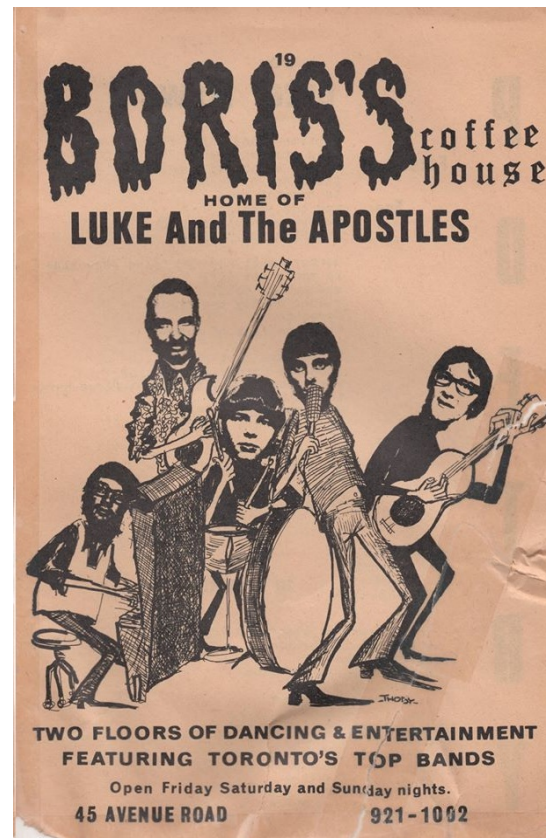
Boris's Coffee House and Discotheque

Boris's which came to bill itself as the "*Home of the Toronto Sound*" opened in May, 1966 having taken over the space formerly occupied the New Gate of Cleve at 45A Avenue Rd. It soon became the early home too, of Luke & The Apostles. Over the next two years, many of the best known bands on the Toronto scene could be found playing there. As coffee houses and clubs of the time go, Boris's was one of the better advertised.

The list that appears below is relatively complete with respect to what can be found online in the Toronto Star and Globe and Mail. Addition of entries from scanned copies of the Toronto Telegram after 1967 must await the passing of COVID.

Updated: May 10, 2020

Poster with thanks to
Larry Stafford



1966

May 13-14	December's Children (Fri) The Hurbley's (Sat)	Star May 13 th p.24 The first Star ad for the newly opened Boris's still calling itself a "coffee shop", in addition to a discotheque
May 20-23	The Hue-Men (Fri/Sat) The Wee Beasties (Sun/Mon)	Star May 20 th p.26 advertisement
Jun 18-19	The Hue-Men	
Jun 21-26	December's Children (Tues/Wed) The Ugly Ducklings (Thurs) The Knack (Fri - Sunday)	Star Jun 18 th p.18
Jul 21 (Thru) & 22 (Fri) Jul 26-29	Luke & The Apostles	Star Jul 16 th p.24 A larger than normal advertisement" Boris's Coffee House is proud to announce that it has become the NEW HOME OF TORONTO'S FOREMOST BLUES ROCK GROUP. July 21 and 22 are their first nights. "They will be back from Tues. July 26 th to Fri. July 29 th and regularly thereafter" "We swing weekdays till 1 am weekends til 3am)".
Aug 9-12	Luke & The Apostles	G&M Aug 12 th p.10
Aug 14-15	The Ugly Ducklings	Star Aug 13 th p.20 "for two nights only"

Sep 10	Toronto Star Staff writer Arthur Zeldin discussing fast moving changes in the Village and commenting “... <i>the Village is just as much a state of mind as it is a municipal site</i> ”.	Star Sep 10 th p.22 and noting that Boris’s “ <i>will probably open an upstairs annex for listening and sitting music, including folk-rock and other variations of electric styles</i> ”
Sep 22, 24-25	Luke & The Apostles (Thurs, Sat, Sun), The Fabulous Fiends (Friday)	Tely Sep 22 nd After Four classifieds
Sep 29- Oct 1	The Vendettas (Fri), Luke & The Apostles (Sat/Sun)	Tely Sep 29 th After Four classifieds
Oct 7-10	A Passing Fancy (Friday) Luke and the Apostles (Sat, Sun, Mon)	Tely Oct 6 th After Four classifieds
Oct 14-16	Luke and the Apostles (Fri/Sat) The Ugly Ducklings (Sun)	Tely Oct 13 th After Four classifieds
Oct 21-23	The Vendettas (Fri), Luke & The Apostles (Sat/Sun)	Tely Oct 20 th After Four classifieds
Nov 4-6	Luke & The Apostles with The Orphans (Fri), The Vendettas (Sat) The Ugly Ducklings (Sun)	Tely Nov 3 rd After Four classifieds: “2 Big Bands on 2 Floors”

Nov 10-13	Luke & The Apostles (Thurs to Sun) downstairs, with The Paupers (Fri) and The Knack (other 3 days, upstairs)	Tely Nov 10 th After Four classifieds
Dec 1-4	Luke & The Apostles (Fri to Sun) downstairs in Boris's with The One Eyed Jacks upstairs in the new Red Gas Room (Fri) and The Paupers (Sat & Sun)	Tely Dec 1 st After Four classifieds: announces a new entertainment policy and upstairs becomes the "Red Gas Room"
Dec 9-11		Tely Dec 8 th After Four classifieds: not the same lineup as the previous week, but the scan is so blurred we'll have to wait until the Library opens or some groups will see some really bad spelling
Dec 16-18	xxx & The Stampeders (Fri) xxx & The Rotten Kids (Sat) Bobby Kris and the Imperials (Sun)	Tely Dec 15 th After Four classifieds: Friday and Saturday 2 bands are featured, Sunday just one. The scan is better but not great ... sorry. An ad the following week suggests that Luke and the Apostles were in Montreal for this and last week
Dec 23 - Jan 1	Luke & The Apostles (every night in Boris's), The Paupers (Dec 24-27 and Dec 29-Jan 1) with The Spectrums (Dec 23) and The Vendettas (Dec 28) upstairs in the Red Gas Room	Tely Dec 22 nd and 29 th After Four classifieds with the 29 th promoting New Year's Eve

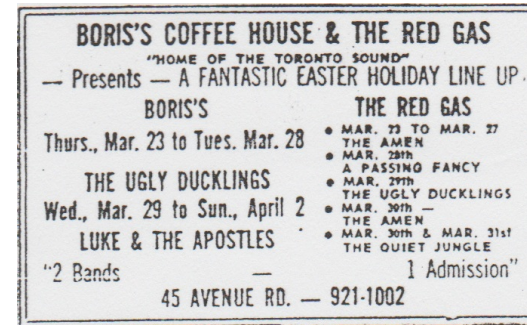
1967

Jan 6-8	Luke & The Apostles (every night), The Vendettas (Fri & Sun) The Ugly Ducklings (Sat)	Tely Jan 5 th After Four classifieds
Jan 20-22	Luke & The Apostles (Sat/Sun in Boris's), The Ugly Ducklings (Fri & Sat upstairs), The Paupers (Sun)	Tely Jan 19 th After Four classifieds
Jan 27-29	The Quiet Jungle (Fri/Sat, Boris's) Luke & The Apostles (Sun), The Vendettas (Sat) with either or both The Ugly Ducklings and The Marchelle	Tely Jan 26 th After Four classifieds
Feb 3-5	The Vendettas (Fri - Sun Boris's), The Tripp (Fri) and Luke & The Apostles (Sat/Sun)	Tely Feb 2 nd After Four classifieds
Feb 10-12	The Blues Set & The Amen (Fri), The Quiet Jungle & The Vendettas (Sat), Luke & The Apostles and The Paupers (Sun)	Tely Feb 9 th After Four classifieds
Feb 17-19	Luke & The Apostles (Fri-Sun Boris's), The Amen (Fri), The Big Town Boys (Sat) & The Ugly Ducklings (Sun) upstairs	Tely Feb 16 th After Four classifieds

Feb 24-26	Luke & The Apostles (Fri-Sun in Boris's), The Tripp upstairs in the Reg Gas Room (Fri & Sat)	Tely Feb 23 rd After Four classifieds
Mar 3-5	Luke & The Apostles (Fri-Sun in Boris's), with The Spasstiks (Fri) and The Amen (sun) upstairs	Tely Mar 2 nd After Four classifieds
Mar 10-12	Luke & The Apostles & The Vendettas (Fri) The Paupers & Simon Caine & the Catch (Sat), The Paupers and the Ugly Ducklings (Sun)	Tely Mar 9 th After Four classifieds
Mar 17-19	The Vendettas (Fri-Sun), The Amen (Fri), The Paupers (Sat) The Ugly Duckling (Sun)	Tely Mar 16 th After Four classifieds
May 20	Not related to Boris's other than the mention that it was Luke & The Apostles's "house band"; an article by Ralph Thomas titled "Luke and the Apostles join the exodus to the US gold fields".	Star May 20 th p.31 also talking about the Paupers

Mar 23-April 2 Best to let the Toronto Telegram ad speak for itself.

Tely Mar 23rd After Four classifieds: "A Fantastic Easter Holiday Line Up"



Apr 7-9 **The Amen** (Fri) **Luke and the Apostles** (Sat/Sun) in Boris's, **The British Modbeats** (Fri/Sat) upstairs

Tely Apr 6th After Four classifieds

Apr 14-16 **Luke and the Apostles** (Fri-Sun) in Boris's, **The Amen** (Fri), **Simon Caine and the Catch** (Sat) upstairs

Tely Apr 13th After Four classifieds

Apr 21-23 **The Amen** (Fri) **Luke and the Apostles** (Sat/Sun) in Boris's, **Simon Caine and the Catch** (Fri) **The Amen** (Sat) upstairs

Tely Apr 20th After Four classifieds

Apr 28-30 **The Tripp** (Fri), **Luke and the Apostles** (Sat), **The Amen** (Sun) in Boris's, **The Amen** (Fri) with **The Heart** (Sun) in the Red Gas Room.

Tely Apr 27th After Four classifieds

May 12-14	Luke and the Apostles (Sat/Sun) in Boris's, The Amen (Fri/Sat) upstairs	Tely May 11 th After Four classifieds with the note: (Luke and the Apostles) returning in 2 weeks by popular demand to Café au Go-Go, New York, for a one month engagement."
May 19-21	The Ugly Ducklings (Sun,) The Tripp (Fri/Sun) The Amen (Sat) upstairs	Tely May 18 th After Four classifieds: re Luke and the Apostles: <i>"Possibly Their Last Village Appearance"</i>
May 26-28	The Tripp (Fri-Sun) in Boris's, The Rabble (Fri), The Amen (Sat) in the Red Gas Room	Tely May 25 th After Four classifieds
Jun 2-4	Livingston's Tripp (Fri & Sun), Kensington Market (Sat) in Boris's), The Amen (Fri/Sat) in the Red Gas Room	Tely Jun 1 st After Four classifieds
Jun 9-11	Livingston's Tripp (Fri-Sun) in Boris's, The Wee Beasties (Fri), The Amen (Sat) in the Red Gas Room	Tely Jun 8 th After Four classifieds
Jun 16-18	Luke and the Apostles (Fri/Sat) in Boris's, The Amen (Fri), Kensington Market (Sat) upstairs	Tely Jun 15 th After Four classifieds: Luke and the Apostles "just back from their successful engagement in New York"
Jun 22-25	Luke and the Apostles (22-24) and A Passing Fancy 22-25)	Star Jun 21 st p.41 "all this week" and Tely Jun 22 nd After Four classifieds

Jun 29-Jul 2	Luke and the Apostles (Boris's) and Kensington Market in the Red Gas Room (both, Thurs to Sunday)	Tely Jun 29 th After Four classifieds: with Luke and the Apostles "open every night next week"
Jul 6-9	Luke and the Apostles (6,7,9) and all next week and The Amen (8) at Boris's, with Kensington Market in the Red Gas Room (Thurs to Sunday) and all next week	Tely Jul 6 th After Four classifieds
Jul 20-23	Luke and the Apostles (21,22) at Boris's, with Kensington Market in the Red Gas Room (Thurs to Sunday)	Tely Jul 20 th After Four classifieds
Aug 3-6	The Ugly Ducklings (5) & Luke and the Apostles (6) in Boris's with Kensington Market in the Red Gas Room (Thurs & Sunday)	Tely Aug 3 rd After Four classifieds
Aug 11-13	The Ugly Ducklings (Fri and Sat) in Boris's with Col. Popcorn's Butter Band in the Red Gas Room (Sat & Sunday)	Tely Aug 10 th After Four classifieds (Advertising starts to tail off)
Aug 25-26	A Passing Fancy (Fri/Sat) in Boris's	Tely Aug 24 th After Four classifieds

Sep 1-4	The Sky (Fri-Mon) in Boris's, The Fringe (Fri) and The Influence (Sat) in the Red Gas Room	Tely Aug 31 st After Four classifieds
Sep 8-10	The Sky (Fri & Sun) in Boris's, The Influence (Fri & Sun) with The Kensington Market (Sat) in the Red Gas Room	Tely Sep 7 th After Four classifieds
Sep 15-17	The Sky (Sat-Sun) in Boris's, The Influence (Fri-Sat) in the Red Gas Room	Tely Sep 14 th After Four classifieds
Sep 22-24	The Sky (Sat-Sun) in Boris's, The Influence (Fri-Sat) in the Red Gas Room	Tely Sep 21 st After Four classifieds
Sep 29- Oct 1	The Fringe (Fri-Sun) in Boris's, The Influence (Fri-Sat) in The Red Gas Room	Tely Sep 28 th After Four classifieds
Oct 6-9	The Influence (Sat-Mon) in Boris's and The Kensington Market (Fri and Sat) in the Red Gas Room	Tely Oct 5 th After Four classifieds
Oct 13-15	The Kensington Market (Fri and Sat), The Influence (Sun) in Boris's	Tely Oct 12 th After Four classifieds
Oct 20-22	The Churls (Fri), The Kensington Market (Sat), The Influence (Sun) in Boris's	Tely Oct 19 th After Four classifieds

Oct 27-29	The Influence (Fri), The Kensington Market (Sat/Sun) in Boris's	Tely Oct 26 th After Four classifieds
Nov 3-5	The Churls (Fri/Sat), The Kensington Market (Sun) in Boris's	Tely Nov 2 nd After Four classifieds
Nov 17-19	The Churls (Fri/Sat), The Fringe (Sun) in Boris's	Tely Nov 16 th After Four classifieds
Nov 24-26	The Kensington Market (Fri thru Sun) in Boris's	Tely Nov 23 rd After Four classifieds
Dec 8-10	The Kensington Market (Fri and Sun), The Influence (Sat) in Boris's	Tely Dec 7 th After Four classifieds
Dec15-17	The Influence (Fri), The Kensington Market (Sat and Sun), in Boris's	Tely Dec 14 th After Four classifieds
Dec 23- Jan 1	The Kensington Market in Boris's for a "Christmas Holiday Special"	Tely Dec 21 st After Four classifieds, including New Year's Eve

1968

Feb 10-11	Kensington Market	G&M Feb 9 th p.12 <i>"This rock group is on its way to New York hoping to break into the big time circles"</i>
Feb 16	Edward Bear Review	G&M Feb 16 th p.12
Feb 17	The Influence	G&M Feb 16 th p.12
Mar 23-24	Kensington Market	G&M Mar 22 nd p.10 "... appear here before they leave finally for New York and recording session

Data Collection

Due to COVID-19 this is a work in progress using the usual sources; the microfilmed archives of the Telegram up to December 1967 and the digital archives of the Toronto Star and Globe and Mail 1966-68.