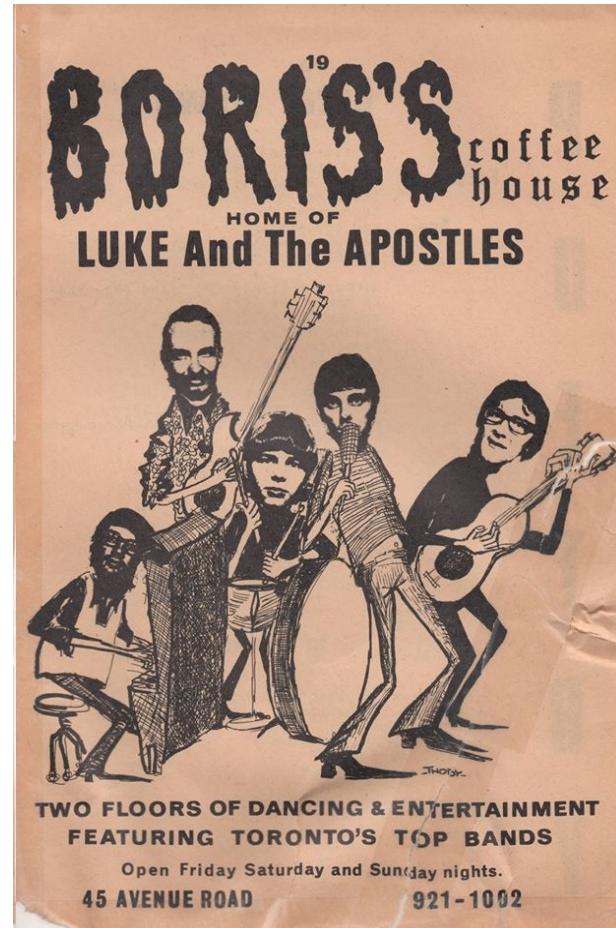


Boris's Coffee House and Discotheque

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 next home of Luke & The Apostles who had just left the Purple Onion behind. Over the next years, many of the best known bands on the Toronto scene could also be found playing there. As coffee houses and clubs at the time go, Boris's was one of the better advertised.

Updated October 17, 2022

Poster with thanks to
Larry Stafford via Facebook



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 2-4 | Livingstone's Tripp | |
| Jun 9, 11 | Livingstone's Tripp | |
| Jun 18-19 | The Hue-Men | Star Jun 18 th p.18 |
| 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. <i>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 26th to Fri. July 29th and regularly thereafter" "We swing weekdays till 1 am weekends til 3am)".</i> |
| 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 15, 17-18 | Luke & The Apostles | |
| Sep 22, 24-25 | Luke & The Apostles (Thurs, Sat, Sun), The Fabulous Fiends (Friday) | Tely Sep 22 nd After Four classifieds |
| Sep 29- Oct 2 | 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 |
| Nov 18-20 | The Paupers | |
| Nov 27 | The Paupers | |
| 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 I'll have to return later or readers 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 ... bet some readers can fill in the blanks. 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 12-13 | Luke & The Apostles (Fri-Sun in Boris's) The Vendettas (Fri in the Red Gas Room, with The Ugly Ducklings there too (Sat & Sun) | Tely Jan 12 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 23 rd After Four classifieds: "A Fantastic Easter Holiday Line Up" | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | <p>BORIS'S COFFEE HOUSE & THE RED GAS <i>"HOME OF THE TORONTO SOUND"</i> — Presents — A FANTASTIC EASTER HOLIDAY LINE UP.</p> <table> <tr> <td>BORIS'S</td> <td>THE RED GAS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thurs., Mar. 23 to Tues. Mar. 28</td> <td>• MAR. 23 TO MAR. 27</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>• MAR. 28th</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>• A PASSING FANCY</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>• MAR. 29th</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>• THE UGLY DUCKLINGS</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>• MAR. 30th —</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>• THE AMEN</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>• MAR. 30th & MAR. 31st</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>• THE QUIET JUNGLE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE UGLY DUCKLINGS</td> <td>1 Admission"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wed., Mar. 29 to Sun., April 2</td> <td>45 AVENUE RD. — 921-1002</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LUKE & THE APOSTLES</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>"2 Bands</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | BORIS'S | THE RED GAS | Thurs., Mar. 23 to Tues. Mar. 28 | • MAR. 23 TO MAR. 27 | | • MAR. 28th | | • A PASSING FANCY | | • MAR. 29th | | • THE UGLY DUCKLINGS | | • MAR. 30th — | | • THE AMEN | | • MAR. 30th & MAR. 31st | | • THE QUIET JUNGLE | THE UGLY DUCKLINGS | 1 Admission" | Wed., Mar. 29 to Sun., April 2 | 45 AVENUE RD. — 921-1002 | LUKE & THE APOSTLES | | "2 Bands | |
| BORIS'S | THE RED GAS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thurs., Mar. 23 to Tues. Mar. 28 | • MAR. 23 TO MAR. 27 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | • MAR. 28th | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | • A PASSING FANCY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | • MAR. 29th | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | • THE UGLY DUCKLINGS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | • MAR. 30th — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | • THE AMEN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | • MAR. 30th & MAR. 31st | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | • THE QUIET JUNGLE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| THE UGLY DUCKLINGS | 1 Admission" | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wed., Mar. 29 to Sun., April 2 | 45 AVENUE RD. — 921-1002 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LUKE & THE APOSTLES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| "2 Bands | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apr 7-9 | The Amen (Fri) Luke and the Apostles (Sat/Sun) in Boris's, The British Modbeats (Fri/Sat) upstairs | Tely Apr 6 th 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 13 th 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 20 th 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 27 th 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 | Luke and the Apostles (Fri & Sat in Boris's The Ugly Ducklings (Sun in Boris's) The Tripp (Fri/Sun) The Amen (Sat in the Red Gas Room) | 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 13-16 | Luke and the Apostles (Boris's, Thurs to Sunday) Kensington Market in the Red Gas Room (Thurs to Sunday) | Tely Jul 13 th After Four classifieds |
| Jul 20-23 | Luke and the Apostles (Fri, Sat) with Kensington Market in the Red Gas Room (Thurs to Sunday) | Tely Jul 20 th After Four classifieds |
| Jul 27-30 | Luke and the Apostles (Boris's, Fri, Sat), The Amen (Red Gas Room, Thurs, Sat) Kensington Market (Red Gas Room, Fri & Sunday) | Tely Jul 27 th After Four classifieds |
| Aug 3-6 | Kensington Market (Red Gas Room, Thurs & Sunday) The Ugly Ducklings (Boris's, Sat) Luke and the Apostles (Boris's, Sunday) with | 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 Red Gas Room) 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 10-12 | The Churls (Fri/Sun), The Fringe (Sat) in Boris's | Tely Nov 9 th | 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 2-3 | The Influence (Sat, Sun) | Tely Nov 30 th | After Four classifieds | get this scan |
| Dec 8-10 | The Kensington Market (Fri and Sun), The Influence (Sat) in Boris's | Tely Dec 7 th | After Four classifieds | |
| Dec 15-17 | 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 | | |
| Jan 5-7 | Kensington Market | Tely Jan 4 th After Four classifieds with a thanks to those that made their New Years party a success |
| Jan 12-14 | Kensington Market | Tely Jan 11 th After Four classifieds |
| Jan 19-21 | Kensington Market | Tely Jan 18 th After Four classifieds |
| Jan 26-28 | Kensington Market | Tely Jan 25 th After Four classifieds |
| Feb 2-4 | The Mushroom Castle (Fri) Kensington Market (Sat, Sun) | Tely Feb 1 st After Four classifieds "Last Village appearance before New York Debut" 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 9-11 | The Mushroom Castle (Fri) The Churls (Sat, Sun) | Feb 8 th After Four classifieds |
| Feb 16-18 | Edward Bear Review (Fri) The Influence (Sat, Sun) | Tely Feb 15 th After Four classifieds and G&M Feb 16 th p.12 |
| Feb 17-18 | The Influence | G&M Feb 16 th p.12 |
| Feb 23-25 | Kensington Market (Fri) Edward Bear Review (Sat, Sun) | Tely Feb 22 nd After Four classifieds with Kensington Market "just returned from triumphant New York debut" |
| Mar 1-3 | The Ugly Duckings (Fri, Sun) The Influence (Sat) | Tely Feb 29 th After Four classifieds including display ad for The Influence |
| Mar 8-10 | Edward Bear Review | Tely Mar 7 th After Four Classified |

| | | |
|------------|---|---|
| Mar 15-17 | The Influence (Fri) Kensington Market (Sat-Sun) | Tely Mar 14 th After Four Classified (open every night during the holidays) |
| Mar 22-24 | The Influence (Fri) Kensington Market (Sat, Sun) | G&M Mar 22 nd p.10 "... appear here before they (Kensington Market) leave finally for New York and recording session" and the Tely Mar 21 st After Four Classified |
| Mar 29-30 | The Influence (Fri, Sat) The Sparrow (Sun) | Tely Mar 28 th , After Four Classified |
| Apr 5-7 | The Churls (Fri) The Ugly Ducklings (Sat, Sun) | Tely Apr 4 th After Four Classified |
| Apr 12, 14 | Edward Bear Revue (Fri, Sun) The Influence (Sat) | With this entry advertizing appears to end. As for the club ?????. The building was demolished in 2022. |

Data Collection

This list is a composite of what appeared in the Toronto Telegram's What's Going On listing in the Showcase Section, October 1963 to late 1966 and the Chum About Town and Classified lists in the After Four Section (Feb 1964 - April 1968); augmented by online searches of the Toronto Star (Star) and Globe and Mail (G&M) archives from the 1960s, which provide useful information from the time before the Tely listings. It was still necessary as usual with these listings to interpolate when performances started or finished based on previous weeks line-ups. Where I take words directly from a listing I use "quotation marks". Where I take words from a column I credit the writer where possible.