

The (New) Gate of Cleve

The Gate of Cleve (after March 1964 and a change of ownership, the “New” Gate of Cleve) opened in late October or early November 1961 (they advertised their second anniversary on November 2, 1963) at 161 Dupont St. (just west of Davenport on the south side). In May, 1965 the business moved to 45A Avenue Rd. just north of the Purple Onion. It closed in mid to late April, 1966. Listings of musicians in the popular press were sparse until early 1963. The “Cleve” apparently starts with musicians performing Friday to Sunday but by 1962, advertised musicians played only on Friday and Saturday nights until early 1965 when management started bringing in more musicians from the US. After that, engagements often started earlier in the week. As with other coffee houses it’s more than possible that music was offered other nights but the musicians not recognized in published advertisements.

Revised: July 12, 2021



1961

Nov 24-26	Sharon Trostin “also” Ted Schafer	Star Nov 24 th p.34 Friday-Sat 9 pm to 3 am, Sunday 830-12:30
Dec 8-10	Greg Curtis with Peter Wyborn Saturday (9 th) only	Star Dec 8 th . P.37 an advertisement referring to Curtis as an “internationally known balladeer and folk singer”
Dec 15-17	Greg Curtis (15-16) & Peter Wyborn (16-17)	Star Dec 15 th , p.21 again an advertisement for both but additionally Peter Wyborn now described as “Western Canada’s leading folk artist”

1962

Sep 29	Toronto Star “Toronto This Week” (Clubs) column	Sep 29 th p. 24. After hours coffee houses are named: Bohemian Embassy, the Pirates Cave, the Village Corner, gate of Cleve, the Cellar, 71 Yorkville Ave., the Voltaire Coffee House and “others”
Nov 30-Dec 1	The Wayfarers (Mark Weber, Art Pollack and Al Loft)	Star Nov 27 th , p.29 referenced in Gerry Barker’s “in Town and Out” column

1963

Feb 22-23	Leon Morenzie	“from Trinidad”, G&M Feb 22 nd
Mar 1-2	Doug Brown	G&M March 1 st
Mar 15-16	The Wayfarers	G&M Mar 15 th
Mar 22-23	Simone Dina	G&M Mar 22 nd
Mar 29	Peter Wyborn	Star Mar 29 th p.22, with a hootennany on Saturday the 30 th

Apr 5-6	Al Cromwell	G&M Apr 5 th
Apr 26-27	Dave Caplan's "Man About Jazz" column	Star 27 th , p.28 "folk singing Friday and Saturday nights"
May 3-4	Vicki Baker & Sonny Greenwich	Star - May 3 rd , p.24 and G&M
May 24-25	The Pioneers	Star 24 th , p.25, G&M May 24 th
May 31- Jun 1	Doug Brown	G&M May 31 st
June 14-15	Greg Curtis	G&M Jun 14 th
June 28-29	Michael & Vicki	G&M Jun 28 th
July 5-6	Doug Brown	Star Jul 5 th , p.20
July 12-13	Greg Curtis	Star Jul 12 th
July 26-27	Doug Brown	Star Jul 26 th , p.20
Aug 3	In Gerry Barker's "in Town and Out" column of Jul 2 nd , p.16	a "pre-Mariposa hootennany" at the Village Corner and the Gate of Cleve"
Aug 9-10	Nita Boconagra	Star Aug 9 th , p.14 "folksinger"
Aug 16-17	Arlene King	G&M Aug 16 th
Sep 6-7	The Villagers	Star Fri 6 th , p.23
Sep 13-14	The Villagers	Star Sep 13 th , p.22, G&M Sep 13 th

Sep 20-21	The Villagers	Star Sep 20 th , p.32 and in Gerry Barker's "In Town and Out" column in the Star Sep 24 th p.32: "Carl Noylander, owner of the weekend folk spot, the Gate of Cleve, has been doing great business with the folk group the Villagers. He still wants to sell his Dupont St. Spot however." Also listed G&M Sept 20 th
Sep 27-28	The Villagers	G&M Sept 27 th & Star Sep 27 Th , p.21
Oct 4-5	Ted and Marion	G&M Oct 4 th
Oct 11-12	Ted and Marion	G&M Oct 11 th
Nov 1	John Smith	G&M Nov 1 st
Nov 2		Second anniversary Hootennany , G&M Nov 1 st
Nov 29-30	Ted and Marion	Star Nov 30, p.29: "take the stand with a batch of folk ditties"
Dec 13-14	The Villagers	G&M Dec 13 th
Dec 14	Article by Dave Caplan: "Hymn to Freedom tops for Oscar Peterson"	Star Dec 14 th , p.20: "The Gate of Cleve is still in operation but is on the selling block for a reasonable figure"
Dec 20-21	Allan MacRae	G&M Dec 20 th

1964

Jan 3-4	Jim McCarthy	G&M Jan 3 rd
Jan 10-11	Bram Morrison	G&M Jan 10 th
Jan 17-18	Doug Brown	G&M Jan 17 th Tely: " tall, dark, handsome and strumming"

Jan 24-25	The Twin Tone Four	Tely Jan 25 th an “Oakwood Collegiate Quartet, makes their first professional appearance tonight”. From a direct communication with Michael (Mickey) Neiger; he was on a Gibson 12-string acoustic, together with his twin brother Harry (Gibson banjo), vocalist Florence Wise (now Florence Weinstock) and Ivan Reitman (a Guild 6 string acoustic guitar) formed the folk group. They appear later at the Green Door, December '64 through February '65. The Neiger brothers are now in Israel. Ivan Reitman is a film and television director, producer and screenwriter in Hollywood. Also referenced in the G&M Jan 24 th
Jan 31- Feb 1	The Twin Tone Four	Tely Feb 1 st “of Oakwood Collegiate”
Feb 7-8	John Smith	Tely Feb 8 th “a singer of backroom ballads”
Feb 14-15	Villagers	G&M - Feb 14 th
Feb 21-22	Yorke Singers Four	Tely Feb 22 nd “another Oakwood Collegiate export”. Was there some connection between The Gate of Cleve and Oakwood Collegiate; a music teacher there perhaps?
Feb 29	Hootennany	Tely Feb 29 th “Tonight, a Mid-winter hootennany, from 10 to 3 am. Continuous entertainment.”
Mar 6-7	Yorke Singers Four	G&M Mar 6 th
Mar 13-14	John Smith	G&M Mar 13 th
Mar 20-21	Allen-Ward Trio	G&M Mar 20 th (Robin and Lynn Ward and Craig Allen)
Mar 27-28	Yorke Singers Four	G&M Mar 27 th
		The Gate of Cleve now referred in the Telegram and G&M as the “New” Gate of Cleve

Apr 3-4	The Villagers	G&M Apr 3 rd
Apr 10-11	Allan-Ward Trio	G&M Apr 10 th
Apr 17	In Gerry Barker's "In Town and Out"	Star April 17 th , p.27: "Mrs. Alice Haller, mother of neophyte folksinging son Warren, is the new owner of the Gate of Cleve on Dupont St."
Apr 17-18	Allan-Ward Trio	G&M Apr 17 th
Apr 24-25	The Villagers	G&M Apr 24 th
May 1-2	The Villagers	G&M May 1 st
May 8-9,15-16	Al Cromwell & comedian Sammy Taft	G&M May 15 th
May 22-23	Villagers	G&M 22 nd
May 29-30	Jim McCarthy & comedian Sammy Taft	G&M Mar 29 th
June 5-6	Tom Northcott or the Allen Ward Trio	G&M Jun 5 th has Tom Northcote, the Star Jun 6 th , p.30 has the Allen Ward Trio. The confusion may have been occurred because Lynn Ward was being "wooed" by a NY manager presumed to be Peter Paul and Mary's, but she turned him down possibly at the last minute. The Cleve may have already announced Northcott as the fill-in and corrected only in time for the Star on Saturday (just guessing).
June 12-13	Al Cromwell	Tely June 13 th
June 19-20	Allen Ward Trio	G&M Jun 19 th
Jun 26-27	Stan Thomas	G&M Jun 26 th and the Tely Jun 27 th

July 3-4	Chick Roberts	G&M Jul 3 rd and Tely Jul 2 nd
July 17-18,24-25	Carol Robinson & Amos Garrett	“from the Dirty Shames ”, also Comedian Sammy Taft , Tely Jul 23 rd and 25 th
July 31- Aug 1	Doug Brown	Tely Jul 30 th
Aug 7-8	Doug Brown	Tely Aug 1 st
Aug 14-15	Ted McGillivray	“imported direct from Mariposa this weekend”, Tely Aug 13 th and 15 th
Aug 21-22	Greg Winkfield	“of the Three False Knaves ”, Tely Aug 20 th
Aug 28-29	David Rea	Tely Aug 29 th
Sept 5-11	Elyse Weinberg	Tely Sep 5 th
Sept 11-12	Arlene King	“strums and hums” Tely Sep 10 th
Sept 18-19	David Tweed	Tely Sep 17 th
Sept 25-26	Ted MacGillivray	Tely Sep 24 th
Oct 2-3	Tom Shipley	Tely Oct 1 st recall Brewer and Shipley: “One toke over the line”: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brewer_%26_Shipley
Oct 9-10	Tom Shipley	Tely Oct 8 th “held over due to a most favourable response”
Oct 16-17	Arlene King	Tely Oct 15 th
Oct 23-24	George Stadden (sp?)	Tely Oct 24 th
Oct 30-31	Doug Brown	Tely Oct 29 th and 31 st
Nov 6-7	Amos Garrett and Carol Robinson	“whoop it up ... from 9 to 3” Tely Nov 5 th

Nov 13-14	David Rea	Tely Nov 12 th and 14 th
Nov 20-21	David Tweed	Tely Nov 19 th and 21 st
Nov 27-28	Allen Ward Trio	Star Nov 28 th , Tely Nov 26 th and 28 th
Dec 4-5	Tom Shipley	Eve Law comedian “visits” on Saturday the 5 th , Tely Dec 3 rd and 5 th
Dec 11-12	Sharon Trostин	Tely Dec 10 th and 12 th
Dec 18-19	Amos Garrett and Carol Robinson	“team up for an evening of gaiety” Tely Dec 17 th and 19 th
Dec 26	Doug Brown	only Saturday show recognized Tely Dec 26 th
 1965		
Jan 2	Doug Brown	Tely Dec 26 th , 31 st and Jan 2 nd
Jan 8-9	Chick Roberts	Tely Jan 7 th and 9 th
Jan 15-16	Al Cromwell	Tely Jan 14 th and 16 th
Jan 22-23	Fernwood Trio	Tely Jan 21 st
Jan 27-31	Greenbriar Boys	Tely Jan 21 st , 23 rd and 30 th , G&M - Jan 23 rd & 28 th From the Jan 23 rd G&M: <i>“Until the end of March the Cleve will feature only acts imported from the United States, starting with the Greenbriar Boys who arrive Jan 28.”</i> Note; the Tely has them starting on Wed., the 27 th as does a Star advertisement Jan 26 th , p.22
Feb 5-7	Dale (Dayle) Stanley	“from Boston” Tely Feb 4 th and 6 th . The detailed listings in The Telegram’s After Four section end after this week; replaced by advertisements in the same section.

Feb 12-14	Patrick Sky	G&M Feb 12 th "advertised as another Bob Dylan"
Feb 19-21	Allen Ward Trio	G&M Feb 19 th , Tely Feb 20 th , Star Feb 20 th , p.32
Feb 24-28	Mississippi John Hurt	Star Feb 27 th p.30, Tely Feb 20 th
Mar 2-7	Sleepy John Estes	Star Feb 27 th , p.30, Tely Feb 27 th , Mar 6 th
Mar 13-14	Judy Roderick	Tely Mar 13 th
Mar 19-21	Tom Paxton (no show)	G&M Mar 19 th , Tely Mar 13 th and 20 th expects he'll be there but Joni Mitchell's site https://jonimitchell.com/ has her here on Mar 19 th ; visiting, meeting Paxton, sitting in (?) but Paxton doesn't show (border issues - Star Jan 27 th , 1966) Presumably Joni performed based on her website.
Mar 23-28	John Hammond Jr.	G&M Mar 24 th : " Playing to an audience of two - a waitress and yours truly (Globe writer Marvin Schiff) - Hammond last night opened a six-night stint at the New Gate of Cleve" and G&M Mar 28 th
Mar 31-Apr 4	Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee	Tely Mar 27 th
Mar 30	note in G&M Mar 30 th	"The New Gate of Cleve coffee house will move into new quarters - a site on Avenue Road between the Half Beat and the Purple Onion - in May. The new New Gate of Cleve will seat about 100 inside and 250 on its patio, manager Warren Haller says. Another coffee house was to have opened at the same location, but it hinged on a deal with a pickle company (of all things) and the deal fell through."
Apr 2-4	Jim and Jean	G&M Apr 2 nd

Apr 7-10	Hamilton Camp	G&M Apr 8 th and 9 th
Apr 16-18	Frank Wakefield	G&M Apr 17 th : substituting for Hamilton Camp who “fell riding with Ian Tyson” the previous Sunday the 11 th . Check out also the G&M Apr 14 th for more insight into the hiring musicians
Apr 23-25	Len Chandler	G&M Apr 23 rd , including an article on Chandler
Apr 28-May 2	Greenbriar Boys	Tely May 1 st , G&M Apr 29 th
May 4-8	John Lee Hooker	G&M May 7 th (only sure of May 7 th & 8 th performances, the Star May 5, p.26 implies longer)
		The New Gate of Cleve moves to 45A Avenue Rd.
May 14-16	Gord Lightfoot	Tely May 15 th “housed in new quarters”
May 17		Tely May 15 th The “first of many hootenannies sponsored by the <i>Toronto Folk Music Guild</i> (formerly at the Bohemian Embassy) with the Tar Mountain Boys and Sharon Trost taking part”
May 21-22	Lonnie Johnson	G&M May 22 nd
May 24		Tely May 2 nd The Monday night hootennany includes Elyse Weinberg , Greg Winkfield , Letys (Murrin) and Russ (sp?) Tely May 2 nd
May 28-29	Mimi and Richard Farina	G&M May 28 th
May 31	The Common Folk, Joni Anderson and Bill Price	Tely May 29 th They head the Monday night hootennany organized by the <i>Toronto Folk Music Guild</i>
Jun 7		Tely Jun 5 th The Monday hootennany features Alan MacRae , Bram Morrison and Marion Harrison

Jun 18-20	John Hammond Jr.	Tely Jun 19 th
Jun 21		Tely Jun 19 th Monday's hootennany with: Al Cromwell, Stan Thomas, Letys (Murrin) and Russ (sp?)
Jun 22-27	The Country Gentleman	Tely Jun 24 th (advertisement on p.11)
Jul 2-4	Doc Watson and Son	Tely Jul 3 rd
Jul 5		Tely Jul 3 rd Monday's hootennany with the Allen Ward Trio, David Rea, Sharon Trostin and "others"
Jul 7-11	Hamilton Camp	G&M Jul 8 th
Jul 12		Tely Jul 10 th Monday's hootennany with: Elyse Weinberg, The Commonfolk and others
July 16-18	Fred Hall	Tely Jul 17 th
Jul 19		Tely Jul 17 th Monday's hootennany with: Roger Renwick, Klaas van Graft, Amos Garrett, Carole Robinson and Chick Roberts Tely Jul 17 th
July 26		Tely Jul 24 th Monday's hootennany with: Larry Diachem (sp), Greg Winkfield, Letys Murrin and Chick Roberts
July 26-Aug 1	The Phoenix Singers https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Phoenix_Singers	Star Jul 24 th p.20 advertisement, and confirmed in a Telegram photo held by York University at https://digital.library.yorku.ca/yul-389919/new-gate-cleve
Aug 2		Tely Jul 31 st Monday's hootennany with Elyse Weinberg, The Common Folk and others (the Common Folk's name bounces back and forth between one and two words)
Aug 4-8	The Phoenix Singers	Star Aug 4 th , p.19 according to an advertisement "Held Over til August 8"

Aug 9		Tely Aug 7 th The hootennany continues, no specific artists are named, but Nathan Cohen in the Star Jun 7 th , p.18 explains: “The Toronto Folk Music Guild sponsors a hootenanny every Monday night at the New Gate of Cleve. The performers are all professionals, except on the second Monday of the month when newcomers and non-union performers get a chance to appear in public before an interested audience.” Looking back this policy wasn’t consistent.
Aug 13-15	Phil Ochs	G&M Aug 13 th
Aug 16		Tely Aug 14 th Monday’s hootennany with: Roger Renwick, Bill Price, Al Cromwell, Elyse Weinberg and Marc Strange
Aug 20-21	The Roof Top Singers	Tely Aug 21 st , Star Aug 21 st also an interesting “After Dark” column by Frank Kennedy where he critiques Lonnie Johnson’s performance at the Steeles Tavern where he moves from blues to standards in an attempt perhaps to broaden his appeal, but is talked over by the audience (sound familiar you musicians out there)
Aug 23		Tely Aug 21 st Monday’s hootennany with: Alan MacRae , Bram Morrison and Stan Thomas “and others”
Aug 28-29	Phil Ochs	Tely Aug 28 th
Aug 31-Sep 5	The Green Briar Boys	Tely Aug 28 th , G&M Sep 3 rd
Sep 6		Tely Sep 4 th Monday’s hootennany with: Elyse Weinberg, Red Dootson, Bram Morrison, Adam Mitchell
Sep 11-12	Son House	Tely Sep 11 th

Sep 13		Tely Sep 11 th The Monday Hootennany: Son House is followed by David Rea, Ted MacGillivray, Roger Renwick and Letys Murrin
Sep 14-19	John Lee Hooker	G&M -Sep 16 th
Sep 20		Tely Sep 18 th - the last reference to the Monday night hootennany
Sep 21-26	John Lee Hooker	Tely Sep 18 th
Sep 28-Oct 3	Allen Ward Trio	Tely Oct 2 nd (in a new format with fewer coffee houses listed)
Oct 5-10	Allen Ward Trio	Tely Oct 2 nd
Oct 26-31	Gord Lightfoot	Tely Oct 23 rd
Nov 12-14	John Lee Hooker	G&M Nov 12 th and The Star Dec 9 th
Nov 15		Tely Nov 13 th The Monday hootennany is now at the Riverboat with Stan Thomas, Klaas Van Graft, Bill Price, and Red Dootson
Dec 14-19	Eric Anderson	G&M Dec 17 th , Star Dec 9 th p.43 (delays in renovations)
Dec 21-Jan2	Allen Ward Trio	G&M Dec 31 st (confirming 31 st to the 2 nd), Michael Sherman in the Star Dec 2 nd p.47 that the Cleve had been closed for the last few weeks", "making alterations" which are explained later

1966

Jan 7-9	The Travellers	G&M Jan 7 th , Tely Jan 8 th
Jan 14-16	The Travellers	Tely Jan 8 th
Jan 18-30	David Blue	G&M - Jan 19 th Tely Jan 15 th (the last listing in the Tely) Star display ad Jan 28 th p.20
Feb 1-13	Lonnie Johnson	Star display ad Jan 28 th p.20
Feb 18-27	Bob Gibson The Allen Ward Trio Jim Donahue	In spite of the optimism of the club's owner in the Star Feb 10 th , p.B37, as chronicled by Michael Sherman in the Star Feb 24 th p. 26, on Feb 18 th the wheels start to come off. Bob Gibson is turned back at the border and about 200 people are turned away from the door costing the owner Sergio Rossi "around \$2500". The Allen Ward Trio filled in Saturday night (the 19 th) but the club went dark until the 23 rd when Jim Donahue filled in for a week, with Phil Ochs expected on March 4 th but it's unclear if he made it until the Mar 11 th (below)
Mar 7	An article by Morris Duff in the Star	Star Mar 7 th p.20 chronicles the troubles the Cleve had faced over the previous months including the City Health Department demanding larger washrooms (in Dec)
Mar 11-13	Phil Ochs	G&M Mar 11 th p.14 though expected Mar 4-13 per Star display ad Jan 28 th p.20
Mar 18-20	Eric Anderson with Phil Ochs joining him on the 18 th	G&M Mar 18 th and Star Mar 19 th p.25
Mar 31-Apr 10	Judy Roderick	In an article in the Star Mar 31 st by Michael Sherman "a refreshing breeze", the Star Apr 2 nd p.24 has Ms Roderick playing every night but Monday, therefore misses the 4 th

May 13	Toronto Star advertisement	Toronto Star on May 13, 1966, p.24 announcing Boris's Coffee House - Discotheque featuring "Live Groups and our Glowing Go-Go Girls". Appearing Friday - Decembers' Children, Saturday - The Hurpleys. 45A Avenue Road.
May 14	<i>Yorkville: money in the coffee beans</i> by Bruce Lawson	G&M May 14, p.13 <i>Yorkville: money in the coffee beans</i> by Bruce Lawson, The New Gate of Cleve had closed in mid to late April.

Data collection

This list is compiled from scanned and microfilmed editions of the Toronto Telegram's (Tely) What's Going On listing (or later equivalent) in the Showcase Section, and the Chum About Town lists in the After Four Section, as augmented by electronic searches of the Toronto Star (Star) and Globe and Mail (G&M) archives from the 1960s. The spellings of performers' names are hopefully correct - reading some of the blurry microfilmed records of the Telegram has probably led to spelling errors. Corrections welcome.

In many cases the beginnings or ends of appearances were difficult to establish from the published notifications, even differing between papers. Other times the published performances may not have taken place due to unexpected circumstances from sickness to rejections of American performers at the US/Canada border as Tom Paxton was in March 1965 and Bob Gibson in February 1966. In some cases I interpolate for better or for worse when performances start or finish based on previous weeks. Where I take words directly from a listing I use "quotation marks". Where I cite an article I reference the reporter if possible.