

The Mousehole

From early 1964 to about May, 1968 this coffee house at 106 Yorkville Ave, owned by Bernie Fiedler also of the Riverboat, was apparently first a coffee shop and second a venue for mainly folk music. It appears to have been Alan MacRae's home base; he certainly dominates this list, at any rate. The dates shown are those which can be confirmed by cross referencing posts in more than one reference where possible, but through 1965-66 music was offered most nights of the week. With the exception of 1965 and much of '66, the Mousehole wasn't advertised well in the daily newspapers, usually depending on posters and smaller publications like Satyrday magazine. In Klaas van Graft's words: musicians performed "Monday to Saturday in my time and a different performer on Sunday", so what's shown here should be viewed as the minimum any particular musician appeared. Still a reasonable measure of who was there.

Updated: June 14, 2020

1964

Feb 8 - Aug 1

Tely, all Saturday listings: "This is a strict coffee with no formal entertainment, but folk artists drop in (and perform) after their regular acts"

Mar 3

G&M Mar 3rd p.10 - amateur film movement screenings at The Mousehole

Aug 1 - Sep 21

Tely all Saturday listings: "The little cellar den has a good sidewalk level view and one of the most complete coffee bars around"

Oct 22 - Dec 25 **Alan MacRae**

Tely *After Four* listings: "back by popular demand" The Mousehole starts naming artists: Alan McRae "sings folk and western"

1965

Jan 1 - Feb 4	Alan MacRae	Tely <i>After Four</i> listings: Alan MacRae "sings Folk" on weekends
Jan 8-10	Alan MacRae	G&M Jan 8 th p.10 (9 pm to 2 am)
Feb 6, 13	Alan MacRae	Tely Feb 6 th
Feb 20	Greg Winkfield	Tely Feb 20 th "singing folk songs here this week" implying music has been offered on more than weekends, possibly has since October
Feb 27	Alan MacRae	Tely Feb 27 th - same week long implication
Mar 6	Alan MacRae	Tely Mar 6 th - same again
Mar 13	Greg Winkfield	Tely Mar 13 th
Mar 19-21 - Mar 26-28	Alan MacRae	G&M Mar 19 th p.10 (19-21 confirmed) G&M Mar 26 th P.10 (26-28 confirmed) Tely Mar 20 th and 25 th advert
Apr 2-4	Alan MacRae Friday and Saturday with Klaas van Graft appearing Sunday	Tely Apr 1 st advert, G&M Apr 2 nd
Apr 9-11	Alan MacRae Friday and Saturday with Klaas van Graft appearing Sunday	Tely Apr 8 th advert, G&M Apr 9 th p.14
Apr 16-18	Alan MacRae returns this weekend, with Klaas van Graft again appearing Sunday	Tely Apr 15 th advert

Apr 23-25	Klaas van Graft takes over this weekend with Joni Anderson appearing Sunday	Tely Apr 22 nd After Four p.9
Apr 30- May 1	Alan MacRae with Klaas van Graft	Tely Apt 29 th , G&M Apr 30 th p.14
May 7-8	Gord Lowe	G&M May 7 th p.12, Tely May 8 th p.20
May 9-for the week	Alan MacRae	G&M May 7 th p.12
May 22	Alan MacRae	Tely May 22 nd
May 23	Jackie Washington	Tely May 22 nd
May 28-29	Alan MacRae	Tely May 29 th p.20
Jun 4-5	Jackie Washington	G&M Jun 4 th p.14, Tely Jun 5 th p.22
Jun 6	Klaas van Graft	G&M Jun 4 th p.14, Tely Jun 5 th p.22
Jun 18-19	Klaas van Graft	Tely Jun 19 th p.18
Jun 20	Al Cromwell	Tely Jun 19 th p.18
Jun 21-26	Alan MacRae	Tely Jun 19 th , formal acknowledgment of week-long music
Jun 27-Jul 3	Gordon Lowe	Tely Jun 26 th p.18
Jul 4-18	Al Cromwell	G&M Jul 9 th p.10 "singing for the next two weeks" G&M Jul 16 th p.10 "appears until Sunday" the 18 th , Tely Jul 17 th p.18 confirms
Jul 20-25	Alan MacRae	Tely Jul 17 th p.18, G&M Jul 23 rd p.10 - "through Sunday" the 25 th

Jul 25-31	Klaas van Graft	G&M Jul 30 th p.31- confirming the 30 th , Tely Jul 31 st p.18 (these evenings)
Aug 6	Klaas van Graft	G&M Aug 6 th p.10 - confirming the 6 th , but probably every night through this period
Aug 16-21	Alan MacRae	Tely Aug 21 st p.17
Aug 24-Sep 4	Sean and Robin	G&M Sep 3 rd p.10 "in a new folk and country western" duo confirming the 4 th and probably 3 rd , Tely Sep 4 th p.15
Sep 5	Red Dootson	G&M Sep 3 rd p.10 "a Sunday special". Red taught English at Richview Collegiate in Etobicoke in 1964-65 (my spouse Jan had him as a teacher), before heading back west probably late '65 or early '66.
Sep 6-18	Gord Lowe	G&M Sep 3 rd p.10 confirming his start on the 6 th with G&M Sep 17 th p.14 confirming the end date
Sep 19	Red Dootson	G&M Sep 17 th p.14
Sep 20-23	David Rea	Tely Sep 18 th p.20
Sep 24-25	Mike Sherman	G&M Sep 24 th p.14, Tely Sep 18 th p.20
		A personal note from Klaas: Michael Sherman had a regular TV show on CHCH, Hamilton called "Michael, The Magic Minstrel". He teamed up with Vicky Taylor as "Michael and Vicky" and moved into the restaurant and licensed pub scene, like the Chanteclairs.
Sep 26	Red Dootson	G&M Sep 24 th p.14
Sep 27-Oct 2	Alan MacRae	G&M Sep 24 th p.14

Oct 8-9	Alan MacRae	G&M Oct 8 th p.14 "specialist in folk, country and western music"
Oct 10	Red Dootson	G&M Oct 8 th p.14 "folk ballads and Westerns"
Oct 15-16, 22-23	Loring James	G&M Oct 15 th p.12 - confirms weekend of the 15/16, G&M Oct 22 nd p.14 confirms the second weekend
Oct 24	Red Dootson	G&M Oct 22 nd p.14
Oct 25-30	Mike Sherman	Tely Oct 23 rd p.26 listings in the Tely now thinning
Nov 26-Dec 2	Jackie Washington	G&M Nov 26 th p.14 Tely Nov 27 th p.19 - "back for a week"
Dec 10-18	Mike Sherman	Tely Dec 18 th (confirming the 18 th) G&M Dec 10 th p.14

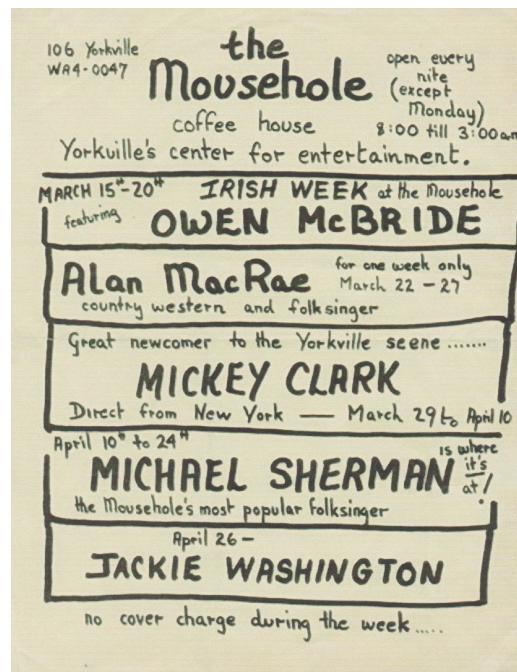
1966

Jan 7-8, 14-15	Loring James	G&M Jan 7 th p.12, G&M Jan 14 th p.10 confirms the two weekends
Feb 1	An article "Dave Mickie talk in the Toronto Star titled " <i>England don't swing like a pendulum do</i> " Alan MacRae	Star Feb 1 st , p.B19 References Alan MacRae appearing then at the Mousehole in an article very critical of the music scene in England in particular the Cavern Club: "... a run down hole in the wall" with an "exorbitant cover charge". Writers could be cruel back then.
Feb 18-19	Michael Sherman	G&M Feb 18 th p.14 - "folk singer"
Mar 11-12	Michael Sherman	G&M Mar 11 th p.14

Mar 15-20

Owen McBride

A poster from
then.



Mar 22-27

Alan MacRae

see above

Mar 29-Apr10

Mickey Clark

Again from Klaas: "Mickey Clark, from Louisville, Kentucky, traveled Canada. A very good singer of ballads like Windego. Took a wife and a straight job. Back after retirement he returned to the music scene, produced a fantastic album, died two years ago in Louisville. He contacted me a few years ago and sent me a CD of it. We have played it many times since."

His obituary:

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2018/07/16/mickey-clark-louisville-obituary/788459002/>

Apr 8-9	Michael Clark	G&M Apr 8 th p.56, Star Mar 31 st P.C25
Apr 10-24	Michael Sherman	The poster above from this time.
Apr 22-23	Greg Winkfield	G&M Apr 22 nd p.12 "English balladeer", Tely Apr 23 rd
Apr 24	Owen McBride	G&M Apr 22 nd p.12 "Irish singer", Tely Apr 23 rd
Apr 26 -	Jackie Washington	The poster above from this time.
May 13-14	Adam Mitchell	Tely May 14 th
May 15	Owen McBride	Tely May 14 th
May 14	A good article "Yorkville: <i>money in the coffee beans</i> " by Bruce Lawson describing the nature of the Mousehole	G&M May 14 th p.13 he writes: "Fiedler was a coffee salesman before he and his wife took over The Mousehole and made it one of the early coffee houses in the Village. They opened The Riverboat in December, 1964. While Fiedler has gone to the business end of the scale with The Riverboat, and takes regular trips to New York to look over the new talent, Patricia Fiedler has kept The Mousehole at the other end of the scale by keeping it primarily a coffee house, with entertainment mainly local and regarded as a sideline".
Jun 17-18, 24-25	Vikky Taylor and Michael Clarke	G&M Jun 17 th p.12, Tely Jun 25 th
Jun 27- Jul 2	Michael Sherman	Tely Jun 25 th , Jul 2 nd
Jul 8-9	Greg Winkfield and Vikky Taylor	G&M Jul 8 th p.10
Jul 10	Owen McBride	G&M Jul 8 th p.10
Aug 26-27	Mickey (Michael) Clark	G&M Aug 26 th p.10, Star Aug 19 th p.22 also with a good review of Malka and Joso by Arthur Zeldin

Sep 10	In an article by Star staff writer Arthur Zeldin	Star Sep 10 th p.22 "... traditionally, Sunday is Owen McBride day at The Mousehole". This article says others including Roger Renwick or Greg Wingfield will "play the club before Killen arrives". Maybe?
Sep 23-24	Loring James and Vikky Taylor	G&M Sep 23 rd p.10
Sep 25	Owen McBride	G&M Sep 23 rd p.10
Oct 15-29	Louis Killen	Star Oct 12 th p. 44 "Louis Killen at Yorkville's The Mousehole for two weeks." in an article by Arthur Zeldin titled " <i>Many Varieties of hokum and folf-um</i> "
Nov 14-26	Jackie Washington with Vikky Taylor every Friday and Saturday night	This and the next two entries are taken from the November 1966 "Satyrday magazine" with thanks to Larry B. Stafford on Facebook.
Nov 28-Dec 10	Greg Winkfield with Vikky Taylor every Friday and Saturday night	
Dec 19-31	Michael Sherman with Vikky Taylor every Friday and Saturday night	

1967

May 11- 20	Louis Killen	G&M May 11 th p.11 "appearing for two weeks"
Jul 19	An article in the Globe describing summons that were laid against Yorkville coffee houses and discos for operating a public hall w/o a public hall licence	G&M Jul 19 th p.5 The challenges in operating a coffee house and the ways the City tried to make it hard for them.

1968

May 17-19	Sarah Melton and Michael Sherman	G&M May 17 th p. 12 “does Judy Collins-type material here all weekend” Star May 17 th p. 23 “continuing next week” and as such possibly closes out the Mousehole
Jul 13	An article titled “ <i>Yorkville: the in-ghetto enters phase IV</i> ” Blaik Kirby	G&M Jul 13 th p. 21writing: “This womb room, whose official name is The Bod Pod, is typical of the trend if not yet typical of the street. At a cost of \$42,000 a basement bistro which used to be called the Mousehole, and to stress live but little-known folksingers, has been transformed into a posh discotheque.”

Data collection

These listings are a composite of what appeared in the Toronto Telegram's (the Tely) What's Going On listing in the Showcase Section and the Chum About Town listings in the After Four Section (Feb 1964 - Feb 1965) augmented by electronic searches of the Toronto Star (Star) and Globe and Mail (G&M) archives from the 1960s on. Where I take words directly from a listing I use “quotation marks” and often italics to separate it from other text. Where I cite an article I reference the reporter if identified. Note the qualification in the introduction.

Note also as usual: these are only the musicians who were publicized in the daily press. Many others performed and risk going unrecognized except in memory. As usual, the spelling of artists names was variable in the press of the day, my apologies for mistakes not caught, corrections always welcome.