

Club 888 and The Rock Pile - 888 Yonge Street, Toronto

Club 888 opened in May 1962 at, by no coincidence, 888 Yonge Street, a building commonly called the Masonic Hall; occupying a space that had already been a dance hall since at least 1937. By then the once lively dance halls in Toronto were declining in popularity as post war, young couples settled down to raise families. By 1962 there were only a few large dance halls left, notably among them the Masonic Hall's "Auditorium" and the Palais Royale on Lakeshore Blvd. Well known bands were performing there; the likes of Ellis McLintock and his Orchestra (a fixture at the Old Mill in west Toronto), Don Francks, and Doug Kemp and his Orchestra.

In 1962 a decision was made to try something different. Norm Muir, a former bouncer at the Auditorium took over management, changing the name of the hall to "Club 888". His style of management was very different. Two articles cited below by the Toronto Star's Morris Duff, describe how the club changed.

His early music selection was somewhat middle of the road, but that changed in late 1962 when he put together a group specifically for his club, the Dave Newberry Orchestra. After about a year Muir changed gears again, seeking out the best and most popular rock bands in Ontario, including Richie Knight and the Mid-Knights, Robbie Lane & The Disciples, Little Caesar and the Consuls, the Regents and the Lincolnaires, to name a few. Over time many more Canadian bands could be seen there, along with the occasional out-of-country performers like Bobby Goldsboro, the Ike and Tina Turner Revue and Wilson Pickett. But that would change with new management, when it reopened on September 20th, 1968 as the Rock Pile, managed by Rick Taylor, Peter Gracey and John Brower.

Through much of the Rock Pile's short life it was reported on by two of the best, Jack Batten at the Toronto Star and Ritchie Yorke at the Globe and Mail, in articles readers are encouraged to track down in their electronic format. Together they painted the scene and critiqued the music as well as could be hoped. We were treated to the best Rock, R&B, Blues and psychedelia bands the time could offer, all the while bringing in a reasonable mix of Canadian talent, at least as opening acts, but often featured. The two house bands; Transfusion led by drummer Pat Little, for the first four months; then Mary Lou Horner for at least the next four were well respected. Though not named in ads, it's probable they performed most nights. Daniel Tate and Rob Bowman in their book *The Flyer Vault* (2019) pages 107-113, weave fascinating stories around this time at the Rock Pile.

But it wasn't easy, out of country bands were expensive and their managers often a nuisance at best; dodgy at worst. Serious competition arrived on Dec 20 '68 with the opening of the Electric Circus at 99 Queen St. E and by at least April, the Rock Pile was struggling financially, as captured in articles referenced below. After a difficult experience with Led Zeppelin, the Rock Pile closed on August 24th with a four night, self-promoted appearance by McKenna Mendelson Mainline and Whiskey Howl.

It had been quite the ride but many of us were moving on too.

January 6, 2023

1962

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| May 26 | Morris Duff, Star Staff Writer | Star May 26 th in an article on Toronto's dance halls " <i>.... the Masonic has become Club 888.</i> " plus some interesting observations on the club set up: " <i>Stags are still welcome But now they sit. Tables have been added to make the setting more like a night club</i> ". These comments were also directed at the Palais Royale on Lakeshore Blvd. |
| Jun 1, 8 | Pat Hervey with the Bob Minns Octet | Star Jun 8 th p.23 display ad: " <i>Held over second week</i> " with focus on Dancing and see: https://www.last.fm/music/Pat+Hervey/+wiki |
| Jun 15, 16 | Pat Hervey and Gord Lightfoot with the Bob Minns Octet | Star Jun 15 th p.24 display ad " <i>held over third week</i> " |
| Jun 22, 23 | Pat Hervey, Gord Lightfoot with the Tonettes and the Bob Minns Octet | Star Jun 22 nd p.24 display ad " <i>held over fourth week</i> " |
| Jun 29, 30 | Pat Hervey and Jack Roach with the Tonettes and the Bob Minns Octet | Star Jun 29 th p.21 larger display ad |
| Sep 12 | Bob Minns Octet with Tony Collacott (age 16) | G&M Dec 29 th p.12 |
| Nov 9 | Bobby Vinton | Star Nov. 9 th p.22 as referenced in a Morris Duff article |
| Dec 31 | Dave Newberry Orchestra, Dianne Brooks and Gord Lightfoot | G&M Dec 22 nd P.18 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dianne_Brooks |

1963

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| Jan 1 | | Star Jan 1 st "Public Dancing Every Friday & Saturday" |
| Feb 1 | Dave Newberry Orchestra with Dianne Brooks | G&M Feb 1 st p.27 "All year" |
| Feb 15, 16 | Dave Newberry Orchestra with Dianne Brooks and the Eight of Clubs | G&M Feb 13 th p.29 |
| Feb 22, 23 | Dave Newberry Orchestra with Dianne Brooks and the Eight of Clubs | G&M Feb 22 nd P.5 |
| Mar 1, 2 | Dave Newberry and the Eight of Clubs Orchestra | G&M Mar 1 st P.5 |
| Mar 8, 9 | Dave Newberry and the Eight of Clubs Orchestra | G&M Mar 8 th P.5 |
| Mar 15, 16 | Dave Newberry and the Eight of Clubs Orchestra | G&M Mar 13 th P.49 |
| Mar 22, 23 | Dave Newberry and the Eight of Clubs Orchestra with vocalist Dianne Brooks | G&M Mar 22 nd P.5 |

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| Jun 22 | Another excellent article by Morris Duff Star staff writer | Star Jun 22 nd p.21.23 <i>"Norman Don't Allow No Taxi Dancin', Here"</i> in which he described how the new Manager (Norman Muir) of the now Club 888 took over the space and ran it. Not a pretty scene by today's standards. Also some background on the "Auditorium" that preceded Club 888, focusing on dance clubs in Toronto in particular, and how they were struggling. Notably, after performers he was first hiring weren't drawing the crowds, he had put together a new band and hence was born Dave Newberry and his orchestra. |
| Sep 28 | In Gerry Barker's "In Town and Out" column | Star Sep 12 th p.23 "Dave Newberry and orchestra" will wear finery for their first anniversary (Sept 28) playing at Club 888, this town's last public ballroom. |
| Oct 11, 12 | Dave Newberry and his Orchestra | Star Oct 11 th , p.20 display ad. This is the last Toronto Star advertisement for the Dave Newberry orchestra as Norm Muir moves on to more current crowd pleasers |
| Nov 1, 2 | Dave Newberry and the Eight of Clubs Orchestra | G&M Nov 1 st P.4 |
| Dec | CKEY's Jingle Bell Hop | Star Dec 14 th , p.26 display ad. No band named. |

1964

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| Jan 3, 4 | Count Five Group (Fri) Red Shea Group (Sat) | G&M Jan 3 rd p.8 |
| Jan 10, 11 | Richie Knight and the Mid-Knights | G&M Jan 10 th p.8 |
| Jan 17, 18 | The Lincolnaires | G&M Jan 17 th p.8 |

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| Feb 7, 8 | Robbie Lane & The Disciples (Fri) Kay Taylor & The Regents (Sat) | G&M Feb 7 th p.8 With this Globe entry ads simply give dates and hours and to call to see who is performing. Detailed lists of who was performing and where, was shifting to the Tely |
| Feb 14-15 | Bobby Ray and the Dukanes (Fri) | Star Feb 8 th p.53 |
| Feb 21/22 | Little Caesar and the Consuls (Fri) Robbie Lane & The Disciples (Sat) | Tely Feb 20 th in the new Chum About Town column in the After Four Section. With these newly published lists, coverage of this venue becomes more detailed |
| Feb 28/29 | Counts Five (Fri) The Regents with Pat Hervey (Sat) | Tely Feb 27 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section. |
| Mar 6,7 | The Lincolnaires featuring Jack Bailey and Vicki Lang (Fri) Kay Taylor and the Regents with Duncan White (Sat) | Tely Mar 5 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| Mar 13, 14 | The Supremes with Matt Lucas from Memphis Kelly, Jay and The Jamies(Fri) The Regents featuring Duncan White (Sat) | Tely Mar 12 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |

More on
the Mar
13 gig

The Supremes

It's this gig that's an oft-told story related to Club Bluenote:
From Mike Daley Dec 22nd, 2019

Were the Supremes fired by Club Bluenote in 1964? Though the plaque out front of 372 Yonge Street states "...the Supremes... performed impromptu late-night sets at the club after giving concerts at major venues elsewhere in the city," it seems that the Supremes only played at the Bluenote once, on Friday, March 13, 1964, in a pre-booked gig backed by Steve Kennedy and the Silhouettes. That night they had already played at the White Shield Knight Club at Lawrence and Kennedy with Little Caesar and the Consuls backing, as well as at Club 888 backed by Kelly Jay and the Jamies. Steve Kennedy told me the other day that when the Supremes arrived at the Bluenote, they were trash-talking the Canadian backing musicians that they had worked with earlier in the evening. I suspect that it was the less seasoned Kelly Jay and the Jamies who were the targets of their vitriol. In any case, Steve and the other members of the Silhouettes did not appreciate their criticism, and owner Al Steiner asked Steve if he should fire them. Steve was noncommittal, and the next night and Sunday the Supremes did not return. They had plenty of other work to fill their time in the Toronto area, including a 2-4 slot on Saturday afternoon at UAW Hall in Oshawa and Masaryk Hall on Cowan Avenue in Toronto that night, followed by Sunday night at St. Rose of Lima CYC at 3260 Lawrence Avenue East, again with Kelly Jay and the Jamies. The Supremes would return to Detroit and a short time later record their first #1 US pop hit, "Where Did Our Love Go?"

Mar 20,
21

**Little Caesar and the
Consuls (Fri) The
Regents with Diane
Brooks (Sat)**

Tely Mar 19th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section

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| Mar 27, 28 | The Counts Four (Fri) and Pat Hervey and The Regents (Sat) | Tely Mar 26 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section and The Star Mar 21 st p.57 |
| Apr 2 | Big Show Of The Week: CKEY's Teenage Shower of Stars Doris Troy, Charmaines, Matt Lucas, Shirley Matthews, Jason King, The Girl Friends, Diane Leigh, Count Downes, Ron White, The Emeralds, Ritchie Knight & The Mid-Knights, The Lincolnaires, Jack Bailey, Vicki Laine and Judi Jansen | Star Mar 28 th p.56 |
| Apr 3, 4 | Richie Knight and the Mid-Knights (Fri) and Du-Kanes with Matt Lucas (Sat) | Tely Apr 2 nd Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| Apr 10 | The Lincolnaires (Fri) | Tely Apr 9 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| Apr 17, 18 | The Countdowns (Fri) and Bobby Ray and the Du-Kanes (Sat) | Tely Apr 16 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |

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| Apr 24, 25 | Little Caesar and the Consuls (Fri) and the Don Thompson Orchestra (Sat) | Tely Apr 23 rd Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| May 1, 2 | Fabulous Counts (Fri) and The Regents and Diane Lee (?) (Sat) | Tely Apr 30 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| May 8, 9 | Jack Bailey and the Naturals (Fri) and The Regents with Diane Brooks (Sat) | Tely May 7 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| May 15, 16 | The Marque Royales (Fri) Kay Taylor and the Regents (Sat) | Tely May 14 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| May 22, 23 | Du-Kanes (Fri) The Regents (Sat) | Tely May 21 st Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| May 25 | Wilson Pickett , also featuring The Rogues and R.K. & The Associates | Star May 18 th p.29 and 21 st p.61 large display ad |
| Jun 5, 6 | Fabulous Counts (Fri) and The Regents (Sat) | Tely Jun 4 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| Jun 12 | Bobby Ray and the Du-Kanes (Fri) | Tely Jun 11 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| Jun 19, 20 | The Regents with Kay Taylor | Tely Jun 18 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |

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| Jun 26, 27 | David Clayton Thomas and the Shays (Fri) The Regents with Vicki Laine | Tely Jun 25 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| Jul 2, 3, 4 | Bobby Goldsboro, Little Caesar an the Consuls, David Clayton Thomas and the Shays, The Countdowns, The Fabulous Counts, Bobby Ray and the Du-Kanes, Big Town Boys, Jayson King, Shirley Matthews and The Fabulous Counts (Fri) | Tely Jul 2 nd Chum About Town column in the After Four Section The Club does another Thursday mega-gig with an international head liner, the first Thursday of the month |
| July 10, 11 | The Du-Kanes with Bobby Kay and The Regents | Tely Jul 9 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| Jul 24 | Little Caesar an the Consuls (Fri) | Tely Jul 23 rd Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| Aug 1 | Bobby Curtola backed up by the Martells , “along with” the Regents and Dune and Judy | Tely Jul 30 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| Aug 7 | The Fabulous Counts | Tely Aug 6 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section |
| Aug 21 | Bobby Ray and the Du-Kanes | Tely Aug 20 th Chum About Town column in the After Four Section “for teenagers Friday” |

1965

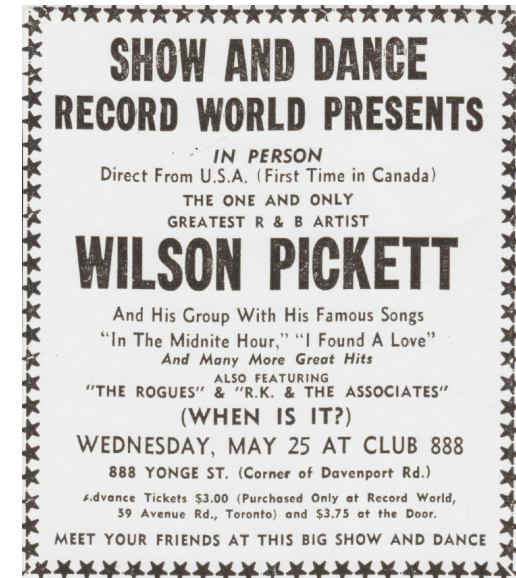
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| May 1 | An article in the G&M and Mail by Michael Hanlon | G&M May 1 st p. A1 Thursdays are now "Morality Plays" The occasional display ad simply providing hours, continues from here to well into 1966. |
| Jun 18, 19 | The Ookpiks (Fri) The Rogues (Sat) | Bruce Marshman |
| Aug 27, 28 | Jon & Lee and the Checkmates (Fri) Bobby Kris & The Imperials (Sat) | Bruce Marshman |
| Sep 4 | Bobby Kris & The Imperials | Bruce Marshman |
| Nov 12, 13 | Just Us (Fri) David Clayton-Thomas and The Rogue (Sat) | Bruce Marshman |
| Dec 17, 18 | The Last Words (Fri) Bobby Kris & The Imperials (Sat) | Bruce Marshman |

1966

May 25

Wilson Pickett with
Buddy Miles on drums &
Jimi Hendrix on guitar,
also featuring **The
Rogues, R.K. & The
Associates** and **Bobby
Kris & The Imperials**

Star May 18th p.29 and 21st p.61
display ads with help from Bruce
Marshman



Sep 9-10

**The Stacattos and The
Spasstiks** (Fri)
The Last Words and **The
Stacattos** (Sat)

Tely Sept 8th After Four Classified "Giant Revolving Bandstand" and
"New Air Cushioned Dance Floor" suggesting they'd been closed for
renovations for a few weeks

Sept 16,
17

R.K. and the Associates
and **The Big Town Boys**
(Fri) **The Consuls** and
The Del-tones (Sat)

Tely Sept 15th After Four Classified

Sep 23,
24

The Consuls and **The
Rising Sons** (Fri) **The
Silhouettes** and **The
Lords of London** (Sat)

Tely Sept 22nd After Four Classified

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| Sep 30, 31 | The Stitch 'N' Tyme (Fri, Sat), The Spasstiks (Fri), Susan Taylor and the Paytons (Sat) | Tely Sept 29 th After Four Classified A copy of the ad showing Susan Taylor and the Paytons scratched out in favour of The Paupers, was posted to FB by Mark Moore |
| Oct 7, 8 | The Vendettas and David Clayton Thomas with the Ardels (Fri), Bobby Kris and the Imperials and The Tripp | Tely Oct 6 th After Four Classified |
| Oct 14, 15 | Dee and Lee and the Roulettes and The Chancellors (Fri), The Paupers and The Passing Fancy (Sat) | Tely Oct 13 th After Four Classified |
| Oct 21, 22 | The Tripp and The Suedes (Fri) The Majestics and The Fiends (Sat) | Tely Oct 20 th After Four Classified For the following few weeks the Tely simply provides a phone number to call to see who was performing. |
| Nov 23 | Ike & Tina Turner Revue | Star Nov 24 p.43 in article by Ralph Thomas describing Tina Turner's performance (and the sound level). |
| Dec 20 | The Regents | Comprised of: Bob Andrews (trumpet), Judi Jansen (vocal), Duncan White (vocal), Rus Strathdee (sax), Brian White (organ), Jack Arsenault (guitar), Wayne Harmon (drums) and Bruce Staubit (bass). From a photo of the band performing at Club 888 in Dec/66 |
| Dec 23 | The Paupers | Bruce Marshman |

1967

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| Jan 27 | Wilson Pickett | The Varsity Jan 20 th p.17 and Jan 27 th p.17 with a very good review of the show in the Feb 3 rd edition, p. 5 by Volkmar Richter, available online at https://archive.org/details/varsity |
| Mar 31, Apr 1 | The One Eyed Jacks (Claudette, Walt Phillips, Eddy Spencer, Ike Isaacs, and Rene) (Fri), The Lovelights and The Tiaras (Sat) | Tely Mar 30 th After Four Classified |
| Apr 14, 15 | E.G. Smith & The Power (Fri) The One Eyed Jacks (Sat) | Tely Apr 13 th After Four Classified |
| May 6 | The Last Words, The Ugly Ducklings, The Quiet Jungle, The Rising Sons, and Little Caesar and the Consuls | Tely May 4 th After Four Classified |
| May 12, 13 | The Mission (Fri) The Tripp (Sat) | Tely May 11 th After Four Classified |
| May 31, Jun 1 | Arthur Conley (Wed, Thurs) The Stix and Stones (Fri) Roy Kenner and the Associates (Sat) | Star May 27 th p.32 Tely Jun 1 st After Four Classified |
| Jun 17 | The Blues Council with Mr Paul | Bruce Marshman |
| Jun 24 | The Bedtime Story | Bruce Marshman |
| Jun 24 | Article by Ralph Thomas | Star Jun 24 th p.B56 describing how the rock scene as struggling; <i>Is it fading away?</i> |

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| Sep 8, 9 | Little Caesar and the Consuls (Fri), The Peepers & The Club 888 Revue (Sat) | Star Sep 8 th p.25 A display: ad still dancing every Fri. & Sat, 8:30 -12 PM |
| Sep 27 | Ike & Tina Turner Revue with The Peepers | Star Sep 28 th p.22 revue by Ralph Thomas, referring to Tina as the " <i>Perpetual Sexual Motion</i> ". Thanks to Al Penrose (FB) for the Peepers reference. |
| Oct 6, 7 | Little Caesar and the Consuls (Fri), The Peepers & The Club 888 Revue (Sat) | Tely Oct 5 th After Four Classified now: "Go Go Dances) |
| Oct 13, 14 | Little Caesar and the Consuls (Fri), The Peepers & The Club 888 Revue (Sat): Ike Isaacs, Tina and Claudette | Tely Oct 12 th After Four Classified now "Go Go Dances) |
| Oct 27, 28 | The Peepers (Fri), The Peepers & The Club 888 Revue featuring Claudette Star of It's Happening, Shirley Mathews , Eddie Spencer , Little Bob from the Counts and Ike Isaacs (Sat) | Tely Oct 26 th After Four Classified |

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| Nov 3, 4 | Little Caesar and the Consuls (Fri), The Peepers & The Club 888 Revue featuring Jack Hardin, Shirley Mathews and Ike Isaacs (Sat) | Tely Nov 2 nd After Four Classified |
| Dec 1, 2 | The Stix “N” Stones (Fri) The Peepers featuring ‘Teak Wood’ (Sat) | Tely Nov 30 th After Four Classified |
| Dec 8, 9 | The Peepers (Fri), The Peepers & The Club 888 Revue featuring Teak Wood plus Eddie Spencer, Valentine Kelly and Ike Isaacs (Sat) | Tely Dec 7 th After Four Classified |
| Dec 15, 16 | The Del Phi Revue (Fri), The Peepers & The Club 888 Revue featuring Shirley Mathews , Eddie Spencer, Valentine Kelly and Ike Isaacs (Sat) | Tely Dec 14 th After Four Classified |
| Dec 29, 30 | The Christopher Edward Campaign (Fri), The Peepers featuring Eric Mercury, Jack Hardin Shirley Mathews and Ike Isaacs (Sat) | Tely Dec 28 th After Four Classified |
| Dec 31 | The Tijuana Brass | Tely Dec 28 th After Four Classified “Special New Year’s Eve Dance” |

1968

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| Jan 5, 6 | The Quiet Jungle (Fri), Little Caesar and the Consuls (Sat) | Tely Jan 4 th After Four Classified |
| Jan 12, 13 | The Fringe (Fri) The Cynics (Sat) | Tely Jan 11 th After Four Classified |
| Jan 19, 20 | The Bedtime Story (both nights) | Tely Jan 18 th After Four Classified |
| Jan 26, 27 | Livingstone's Journey (both nights) | Tely Jan 25 th After Four Classified |
| Feb 2, 3 | The Three to One (both nights) | Tely Feb 1 st After Four Classified |
| Feb 9, 10 | Bitter Sweet Band (both nights) | Tely Feb 8 th After Four Classified |
| Feb 16, 17 | The Mushroom Castle (Fri), Bitter Sweet Band (Sat) | Tely Feb 15 th After Four Classified |
| Feb 23, 24 | Freedom Fair (Fri), Little Caesar and the Consuls (Sat) | Tely Feb 22 nd After Four Classified |
| Mar 1, 2 | Leigh Ashford Group | Tely Feb 29 th After Four Classified |
| Mar 8, 9 | The Organization | Tely Mar 7 th After Four Classified |
| Mar 15, 16 | The Spyrel (Fri) Edward Bear Revue (Sat) | Tely Mar 14 th After Four Classified |
| Mar 22, 23 | The Mushroom Castle (Fri) The Organization (Sat) | Tely Mar 21 st After Four Classified |

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| Mar 29, 30 | Bitter Sweet Blues Band | Tely Mar 28 nd After Four Classified |
| Apr 5, 6 | Bitter Sweet Blues Band | Tely Apr 4 th After Four Classified |
| Apr 19, 20 | Edward Bear Revue (Fri) St Petersburg Philharmonic Blues Band (Sat) | Tely Apr 18 th After Four Classified |
| Apr 26, 27 | The Eccentrics (Fri) The Bitter Sweet (Sat) | Tely Apr 25 th After Four Classified |
| May 4 | The Bitter Sweet (Sat) | Tely May 2 nd After Four Classified |
| May 11 | The James Stafford Sextet (Sat) | Tely May 9 th After Four Classified |
| May 18 | The Mail Bagg (Sat) | Tely May 16 th After Four Classified |
| May 25 | The Christopher Edward Campaign (Sat) | Tely May 23 rd After Four Classified Now called "The New Club 888" implying a change in management |
| Jun 1 | George Olliver & His Children (Sat) | Tely May 30 th After Four Classified - A large display ad again referencing "The New Club 888" |
| Jun 8 | Jack Hardin & The Silhouettes (Sat) | Tely Jun 6 th After Four Classified - a more modest sized display ad |
| Jun 15 | The Peepers (Sat) | Tely Jun 13 th After Four Classified |
| Jun 22 | Valentine Kelly (Sat) | Tely Jun 20 th After Four Classified |
| Jun 29 | The Climax (Sat) | Tely Jun 27 th After Four Classified |

This appears to be the last ad in the Tely before becoming the Rock Pile in the fall

The Rock Pile

1968

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| Sep 20, 22 | Blood, Sweat and Tears & house band Transfusion led by drummer Pat Little | Tely Aug 31 st and Sep 7 th and Sep 14 th After Four Classified (The After Four Classifieds move from Thursday to Saturday) Star Sep 7 th p.32: an article by Loren Chudy in "How to beat the stone beaver syndrome" describes the opening of the Rock Pile, those who are managing it Rick Taylor, Peter Gracey and John Brower. Star Sep 21 st p. 36 in a second article on the Rock Pile Chudy describes opening night "... off to a good start". G&M Sep 24 th p.12 Ritchie Yorke in an article titled "Rock Pile: new heap on the musical front" provides good detail. |
| Sep 27-29 | Silver Apples with Transfusion (Fri, Sat) Country Joe and the Fish (Sun - two shows) | Tely Sep 21 st After Four Classifieds Star Sep 27 th p.27 G&M Sep 27 th p.14 Country Joe and the Fish: "five hoarse men from San Francisco". Ritchie Yorke follows with an article on Sep 28 th p.28 |
| Oct 4, 5 | Transfusion & Fever Tree (Fri) Procol Harum with Transfusion and Fever Tree (Sat) | Tely Oct 5 th After Four Classified with help from Bruce Marshman G&M Oct 4 th p.14 |
| Oct 11 & 12 | Kensington Market with Apple Pie Motherhood Band | Tely Oct 5 th After Four Classified Star Oct 12 th p.37 G&M Oct 11 th p.12 with a Ritchie Yorke article on Oct 14 th p.19 |
| Oct 18, 19 | Nucleus plus Ars Nova and Cathy Young | G&M Oct 18 th p.11 with a Ritchie Yorke article on the 21 st p.13 |
| Oct 27 | Jeff Beck and his Group plus The Transfusion (Sun) | Tely Oct 26 th After Four Classified G&M Oct 28 th p.16 an article by Ritchie Yorke "Beck could become blues guitar god of the sixties" Star Oct 25 th p.28 |

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| Nov 1, 2 | McKenna Mendelson Mainline (Fri) Chambers Brothers (Sat) | Tely Nov 2 nd After Four Classified G&M Nov 1 st p.14 |
| Nov 9 | Iron Butterfly (Sat) | Tely Nov 9 th After Four Classified Star Nov 8 th p.32 G&M Nov 11 th p.15 some good comments by Ritchie Yorke |
| Nov 17 | Leigh Ashford Group and McKenna Mendelson Mainline (Sun) | The weekend shows, at least those advertised, move to Sat/Sun in order it appears to get better news coverage now that the After Four Section has moved to Saturday G&M Nov 15 th p.13 |
| Nov 23, 24 | John Lee Hooker with McKenna Mendelson Mainline (Sat) and Canned Heat (Sun) | Tely Nov 23 rd After Four Classified Star Nov 25 th p.22 G&M Nov 22 nd p.13 |
| Nov 30, Dec 1 | McKenna Mendelson Mainline and Transfusion (Sat) The Amboy Dukes and The Rock Show of The Yeomen (Sun) | Tely Nov 30 th After Four Classified G&M 29 th p.14 |
| Dec 7, 8 | McKenna Mendelson Mainline (Sat) Buddy Guy's Blues Band (Sun) | Tely Dec 7 th After Four Classified G&M Dec 6 th p.16 MMM's "farewell appearance... before going to England" |
| Dec 7, 12, 14 | Nucleus | G&M Dec 13 th p.13 confirms the Dec 14 th performance |

Dec 22

**St. Petersburg
Philharmonic (Sat)
Deep Purple (Sun)**

Tely Dec 21st After Four Classified
G&M Dec 20th p.13 with a Ritchie Yorke article Dec 23rd p.11
Thanks to a FB post from Mark Moore



Dec 27,
28

**Mandala with Dom Troiano,
Denny Geriard and
Transfusions and The
Paupers (Fri)
Modern Rock Quartet (Sat)**

G&M Dec 27th p.14
Star Dec 30th p.15 referenced in an article by Jack Batten
focusing on the performance of the MRQ

From a FB post by Mark Moore

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| Dec 31 | Kensington Market, Sherman and Peabody, Transfusion | From a FB by from Mark Moore with Lights by Catharsis |
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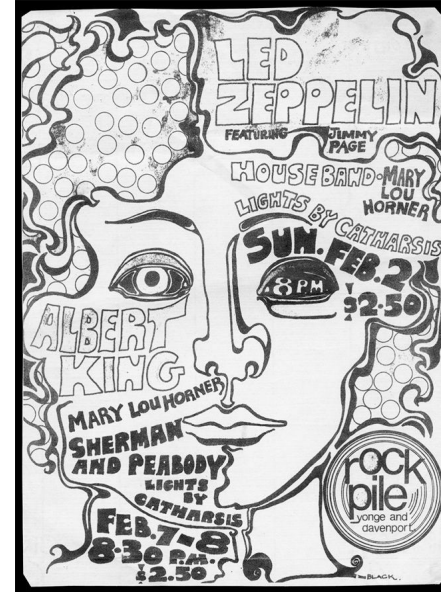
1969

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| Jan 4 | Sherman and Peabody (Sat) | Tely Jan 4 th After Four Classified now with <i>"Lights by Catharsis"</i> |
| Jan 8 | In an article by Ritchie Yorke | G&M Jan 8 th p.10, noting that the new house band is Mary Lou Horner (a six piece Toronto act) replacing Transfusion |
| Jan 10, 11 | The Churls (Fri) The McCoys & The Churls (Sat) plus Mary Lou Horner | Tely Jan 11 th After Four Classified Star Jan 10 th p.24 What's On column G&M Jan 13 th p.13 Ritchie Yorke comparing Mary Lou Horner to Butterfield-Mayall in style |
| Jan 18, 19 | Muddy Waters with Otis Spann (Sat) with Mary Lou Horner and It's All Meat; Ohio Express (Sun) | Tely Jan 16 th After Four Classified (moving back to Thursdays) Star Jan 17 th p.B22, What's On column and Star Jan 20 th p.22 A review of Muddy Water's show by Jack Batten, with Buddy Guy dropping in and Otis Spann on keys G&M Jan 17 th p.10 confirming dates and performers |
| Jan 24, 25 | The Churls plus Mary Lou Horner (Fri) Rhinoceros plus Mary Lou Horner (Sat) | Tely Jan 23 rd After Four Classified G&M Jan 24 th p.9 clarifying the Sunday lineup |

Feb 1, 2 **Teegarden & Van Winkle**
(Sat) **Led Zeppelin** (Sun)
with **Mary Lou Horner** (both
nights)

Tely Jan 30th After Four Classified
G&M Jan 31st p.14

Thanks to
Bruce Marshman



Feb 7, 8 **Albert King** with **Sherman & Peabody** (Fri) and with **Mary Lou Horner** (Fri, Sat)

Tely Feb 6th After Four Classified
G&M Feb 7th p.10

Feb 15 **Witness Inc** plus the “**New Transfusion** and **Mary Lou Horner** (Sat) **MC5** (Sun)

Tely Feb 13th After Four Classified with help from Bruce Marshman (Sun)
Star Feb 17th p.22 referenced in Jack Batten’s article noting not great crowds here or for Janis Joplin and Procul Harem elsewhere in Toronto.

Feb 21 Movie Night - Don’t Knock
The Rock & TNT Show

Now moving to movies on Fridays

Feb 23 **Frank Zappa & The Mothers of Invention** with **Mary Lou Horner** (Sun)

Star Feb 24th p.25 performance described in Jack Batten’s article
G&M Feb 21st p.12 with good Ritchie Yorke article on Feb 24th

Feb 28 Movie Night - Alice In
Wonderland & Blowup

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| Mar 2 but moved to Mar 3 | John Mayall with Sherman & Peabody (Sun) and Mary Lou Horner | Tely Feb 27 th After Four Classified with help from Bruce Marshman (Sherman and Peabody). It was closed Saturday: <i>"Sorry closed! Staff on Trip"</i> Due to airline issues they were late for the Sunday slot and the show moved to Monday also an article by Ritchie Yorke Mar 4 th p.11 |
| Mar 8, 9 | Savoy Brown with Mary Lou Horner (Sat) Procul Harum (Sun) | Tely Feb 27 th and Mar 6 th After Four Classified Star Mar 10 th p.24 referencing Savoy Brown and the developing competition between The Rock Pile and the more recently opened Electric Circus on Queen |
| Mar 14, 16 | Al Kooper & Mike Bloomfield (Super Sessions) plus Lighthouse (Fri) Chuck Berry with Mary Lou Horner (Sun) | Tely Mar 6 th After Four Classified - Sat Mar 15 th : film night G&M Mar 12 th p.13 referenced in a Ritchie Yorke article G&M Mar 15 th p.28 Kooper and Bloomfield refused to play due to a dispute between their agent and manager (figure that one out!) Lighthouse performs w/o them. Confirmed G&M Mar 17 th p.15 |
| Mar 21-23 | Crazy Horse with Mary Lou Horner (free concert:, Fri), Kensington Market - John Mills Cockell on synthesizer with Leather (Sat), Spirit , Witness At 8 , and Quill (Sun) | Tely Mar 20 th After Four Classified G&M Mar 21 st p.12 and Mar 24 th p.15 |
| Mar 30 | Julie Driscoll , Brian Auger & The Trinity and Nice with organist Keith Emerson , drummer Brian Davison and Lee Jackson on bass | Tely Mar 27 th After Four Classified Fri Mar 28 th : films Star Mar 31 st p.24 Jack Batten comments favourably on Julie Driscoll's performance G&M Mar 28 th p.12 adding detail |

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| Apr 4, 5 | Muddy Waters with his band: Otis Spann, Pee Wee Madison and Willie Smith and John Lee Hooker backed up by Mary Lou Horner (both nights) | Tely Apr 3 rd After Four Classified with G&M Apr 4 th p.12 and Apr 5 th p.20 adding detail |
| Apr 11-13 | Salome Bey, Wes Fauster and Mother Load (Sat) The Crazy World Of Arthur Brown , with Vincent Crane (organist), Carl Palmer (drums) with Upland Windmill led by local drummer Ron Rully and vocalist Salome Bey in the first show (Sun) | Tely Apr 10 th After Four Classified with additional performers on Saturday from Bruce Marshman Star Apr 14 th p.23 Jack Batten reports not so favourably on Arthur Brown's performance but praises Upland Windmill G&M Apr 10 th p.10 Ritchie Yorke is more kind both in an interview of Brown in New York before he performed at the Rock Pile on the 13 th and an article Apr 14 th p.15 Films continue on Friday the 11 th |
| Apr 18-20 | Family plus Howlin' Wolf (Sat) Ten Years After (with Alvin Lee) plus Howlin' Wolf , and Mother Tucker's Yellow Duck (Sun) | Tely Apr 17 th After Four Classified: Films on Friday the 18 th Star Apr 21 st p.27 with Jack batten providing both cutting and complementary analyses of the bands, management's risk taking and an uncomplimentary but humorous assessment of the hall itself. A must read. G&M Apr 18 th p.12 and in an article by Ritchie Yorke Apr 21 st p.15 |
| Apr 24-26 | Benefit dance featuring Leather and the Glenn MacDonald Quartet (Thurs) Paul Butterfield Blues Band plus Motherload & Mother Tucker's Yellow Duck (Sat) | Tely Apr 24 th After Four Classified Star Apr 22 nd p. 32 again Jack Batten G&M Apr 25 th p.13 and Apr 25 th p.15 adding Mother Tucker's Yellow Duck from Bruce Marshman Friday: film night |

Has Toronto's Great Age of Rock come to an end?

Star Apr 26th p.41 An article by Jack Batten assessing the current state of Rock as represented by performances at, and the durability of, the Rock Pile and Electric Circus. He more or less predicts the demise and the reasons.

May 2-4 **Sweetwater** (Sun)

Film night (The Beatles) with Lights by Cartharis (Fri) with help from Bruce Marshman

May 9-10 **Lighthouse** plus **Tony Kosenic** a folk singer performing mainly his own material (Sat)

Tely May 8th After Four Classified: Film night on Friday
G&M May 7th p.13 an article by Ritchie Yorke closes with a comment that going forward the Rock Pile will present concerts on Saturday nights only, with special concerts and benefits on Sunday.

May 16-17, 19 **Kensington Market, Edward Bear, Milkwood** (Sat)
The Who & Leigh Ashford (Mon)

Tely May 15th After Four Classified
G&M May 17th p.30 in an in depth article by Ritchie Yorke
G&M May 19th p.22 and May 20th p.15 more of Ritchie Yorke
Film night, Friday



Thanks to
Bruce Marshman

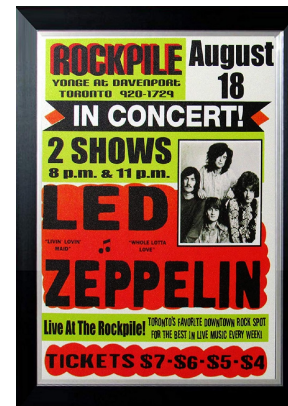
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| May 23-25 | Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention (Sat) Grand Funk Railroad, Kensington Market, Milkwood & Leather (Sun, benefit) | G&M May 23 rd p.14 with Tely May 22 nd After Four Classified has Albert King on Saturday with the same benefit on Sunday Film night, Friday |
| May 30-31 | The Raven (Fri) The Crazy World Of Arthur Brown, Vincent Crane, Carl Palmer plus The Raven (Sat) | Tely May 29 th After Four Classified: film night, Friday includes The Raven. Note; tickets can be bought various places including the Penny Farthing G&M Jun 2 nd p.15 a review by Ritchie Yorke |
| Jun 6-8 | Earth Opera plus Mother Tucker's Yellow Duck (Sat) Music, Joy & Love (Sun) | Tely Jun 5 th After Four Classified G&M Jun 6 th p.12 and a Jun 9 th p.15 review by Ritchie Yorke Film night, Friday |
| Jun 13, 14 | | G&M Jun 13 th p.13: "There are no Rock Pile concerts this weekend" |
| Jun 19 | Battle of the Bands | Tely Jun 12 th After Four Classified Star Jun 18 th p.78 In a large display ad: <i>The Battle of the Bands: Toronto Shotgun, Wingate Funk, The Neon Rose, The Hudson Bay Company, Pile Driver, The System, Ice, Abiosis Pisces, The Inside Track, The Motor, Armemis Brown, The Exceptions, Empire Review, Beau B. Jackson & The Corporation</i> |
| Jun 22, 23 | Milkwood & Brother Brent & Others | G&M Jun 20 th p.11: Jam session " <i>Top local groups</i> " |
| Jun 27-29 | Dr. John the Night Tripper (Sat & Sun) cancelled due to throat problems, replaced by Chuck Berry (both nights?) Paul Butterfield Blues Band and Edward Bear (Mon) | Tely Jun 26 th After Four Classified G&M Jun 27 th p.13 G&M Jun 30 th p.15 and Jul 1 st p.16 with very complimentary reference to Edward Bear's opening, by Ritchie Yorke Film night, Friday |

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| Jul 5 | B. B. King with Edward Bear (Sat) | Tely Jul 3 rd After Four Classified G&M Jun 30 th p.15 Friday: "dancing to guest bands" Film night, Thursday |
| Jul 8 | The Grateful Dead | Star Jul 9 th p.C24 as reported by Jack Batten G&M Jun 30 th p.15 |
| Jul 11, 12 | Edward Bear (Fri) McKenna Mendelson Mainline plus Elyse Weinberg (Sat) | Tely Jul 10 th After Four Classified G&M Jun 30 th p.15 and Jul 11 th p.13 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elyse_Weinberg Film night, Thurs |
| Jul 19 | Fleetwood Mac | G&M Jun 30 th p.15 (this performance and the following three entries, combined with the comment below by now manager George Anthony in the Star, probably didn't happen) |
| Jul 26 | The Nice | G&M Jun 30 th p.15 |
| Aug 2 | Savoy Brown | G&M Jun 30 th p.15 |
| Aug 9 | Jeff Beck | G&M Jun 30 th p.15 |

Aug 18

Led Zeppelin and Edward Bear

Star Aug 21st p.28: in the "Dateline Entertainment column". Rock Pile manager George Anthony admits: "We can't go on. We have no money." A recent "six-week shutdown" is referenced. At any rate the Rock Pile moved out of the Masonic Hall at the end of August, with no future plans. The four night performance below closed it out.
G&M Aug 14th p.10 and Ritchie Yorke's review Aug 19th p.13



Thanks to Bruce Marshman

Aug 21-24

McKenna Mendelson Mainline and Whiskey Howl

Tely Aug 21st After Four Classified
Star Aug 21st p.28 in the same article as the above; it's noted that McKenna Mendelson Mainline promoted this gig themselves.

How the Rock Pile perished

Star Aug 23rd p.38 Jack Batten describing the sorry end of the Rock Pile.

The venue continued on into the new year as a dance hall, under various names and managers before the Masons gave up. It appears to have closed by the end of May, 1970; for the time being.

The Rock Pile fades away

From August 1969 until mid-1970, the venue searched for direction, changing managers, changing names, but still trying to offer well known performers. Through it all it was still commonly called the Rock Pile or “former” Rock Pile.

1969

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| Oct 17-21 | Auditions for The Musical Hair | G&M Oct 21 st p.17 From Virgil Scott via FB: “.... weeks after the Mainline gig at The Rock Pile auditions for the Toronto cast of Hair. Mine was the 3rd on Sunday afternoon at 1 pm. Paul Shaffer played piano for me. |
| Nov 22 | Mother Tucker’s Yellow Duck and Jamf | Star Nov 22 nd p.49 in an article by Jack Batten: “ <i>A band that brings rock cliches to life</i> ” with Patrick Caldwell, vocals and harmonica G&M Nov 21 st p14 with the venue still called the Rock Pile. |
| Dec 5 | The Beautiful Big Bob Benefit Bash with Gordon Lightfoot , the City Muffin Boys and the “new” Downchild Blues Band | Star Nov 24 th p.22 in an article by Jim Beebe. The benefit was organized by Gordon Rayner for artist Robert Markle who was injured in a motorcycle crash The benefit is referenced by Nicholas Jennings in his book <i>Lightfoot</i> on Page 96, explaining that the reason he did the gig: http://www.nicholasjennings.com |
| Dec 13 | Lighthouse, Edward Bear Catharsis Light Show <i>Rock Pile to reopen under a new name</i> by Ritchie Yorke | G&M Dec 12 th p.13 G&M Dec 30 th p.11 John Gibb 27, owner of Toronto’s House of Lords boutique and Howard Tyner 19, a Detroit entrepreneur, will manage the venue under a new name, to be determined, running on a week-to-week basis, with apparently big plans starting on new year’s eve and following with B.B. King. |

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| Dec 31 | Alice Cooper, Teegarden & Van Winkle, Keith McKie & The Sunnyside Symphonia | G&M Dec 30 th p.11 a New Year's Eve "All Night Freak Out" still referred to as the Rock Pile but with promises of a new name. |
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1970

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| Jan 3, 4 | B. B. King and Leather with the Catharsis Light Show | Star Dec 31 st p.48 in the Star's Dateline Entertainment column The Stoned Temple as it was soon to be called, operated by John Gibb (27) of Toronto and Howard Tyner(19) of Detroit started off with great plans, but it soon closed. |
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| Jan 7 Toronto Star article | "No more rock at the Temple" | Star Jan 7 th p.66 also in the " <i>Dateline Entertainment</i> " column the club now known as the Stoned Temple " <i>will no longer be the site of rock concerts</i> ". According to the building's rental agent " <i>as a result of the damage incurred at last weekend's show with B.B. King</i> ". |
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| Jan 7 Toronto Globe article | Ritchie Yorke: " <i>Final Crunch comes to old Rock Pile via its owners.</i> " | G&M Jan 7 th p.13 in an article that offers more detail on the managers: " <i>a group of Detroit businessmen, which included well-known entrepreneur Russ Gibb who operated that city's Grande Ballroom for some time.</i> " John Gibb (no apparent relationship) is identified as the Toronto boutique owner who represented the Detroit promoters, doing promotion and advertising " <i>.... not financially involved</i> ". He thought the Detroit people would try to find another venue. Maybe they did. |
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| Mar 1 | The venue opens again calling itself the "The Grande Ballroom" with Savoy Brown | Globe Feb 27 th p.12 Globe Mar 2 nd p.13 the show was cancelled "... <i>due to the exhaustion and ill health of the band</i> " |
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May 29 *Sound Track* presents **The Animals, Eros Babaloo**,
Lights By Translove Airways

G&M May 23rd p.27 display ad: "*The Animals plus Eros Babaloo*" (on tour)

The event turned out to be something of a scam. Delta Promotions of Bay City, Michigan took the names of defunct bands like the Animals, Zombies & The Archies and brought together other musicians to play live at venues. (Bruce Marshman).

References to the venue as a going concern end for now. But as Daniel Tate <https://www.instagram.com/theflyervault/> outlines in the history of venue at <https://888yonge.com/#history> the room continued in one way shape or form for years as a performance venue, and is now (2023) operating as the "Concert Hall".

Data Collection

These listings are a compilation, with significant help and input from Bruce Marshman throughout as referenced, of what appeared in the Toronto Telegram's (the Tely) After Four Classified section, and electronic searches of the Toronto Star (Star) and Globe and Mail (G&M) archives from the 1960s on, and on one occasion, the UofT student newspaper, The Varsity. Where I take words directly from a listing I use "quotation marks" and/or italics. Where I cite an article I reference the reporter if identified.