

## Peggy's Pavilion, Leonard's Beach, Lake Simcoe

From the 1930's to the early 1970s, Peggy's Pavilion (known also as Parson's Dance Hall) on the SW corner of the 10<sup>th</sup> Line and the 25<sup>th</sup> Side Road, Innisfil was the most popular dance hall in the area. Peter Young in his book "Let's Dance" offers an excellent overview of Peggy and George Parson's presentation of the musical entertainment of their time, each summer for the better part of 40 years. Further information and pictures, such as shown below can be found through the Innisfil Historical Society at: <http://www.ourstoriesinnisfil.ca/>

Like the music in Toronto's Yorkville Village, by the early 1960s and specifically 1964 for both Peggy's and several key Yorkville coffee houses, rock and roll was taking over. Live music from some the best Ontario bands was featured on weekends from May to Thanksgiving. It came to be known in the early going, as one of the summer "home" dance halls of Ritchie Knight and the Mid-Knights, remembered best for their hit *Oh Charlena*.

Advertising that was used to build this list was relatively strong in 1964 but tapered off quickly as it probably wasn't needed to fill the hall. By 1967 thinning crowds may have justified renewed interest in publicity in newspapers. Posters nailed to utility poles were a common form of advertising.

Two other dance halls weren't far away, *Hunter's Pavilion* on Lake Ontario at the 10<sup>th</sup> Line Innisfil and the *Alcona Beach Club* further south near the 8<sup>th</sup> Line Innisfil, the latter also covered in Peter Young's book.

Picture undated but probably the 1940's or early 1950s, judging by the car.



Updated: December 26, 2022, 2022

**1964**

May 23	<b>Anthony and the Apollos</b>	Toronto Telegram After Four Section May 21 <sup>st</sup>
Jun 13	<b>The Countdowns</b>	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Jun 11 <sup>th</sup> , p.4
Jun 27	<b>The Fabulous Counts</b>	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Jun 25 <sup>th</sup> , p.4
Jul 11	<b>Ritchie Knight and the Mid-Knights</b>	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Jul 9 <sup>th</sup> , p.4
Jul 18	<b>Ritchie Knight and the Mid-Knights</b>	Personal note to this list's author
Jul 25	<b>Ritchie Knight and the Mid-Knights</b>	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Jul 23 <sup>rd</sup> and Personal note to this list's author
Aug 15	<b>Ritchie Knight and the Mid-Knights</b>	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Aug 13 <sup>th</sup>
Aug 29	<b>Little Caesar and the Consuls</b>	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Aug 27 <sup>th</sup>
Oct 10	<b>Little Caesar and the Consuls</b>	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Oct 10 <sup>th</sup> , p.4

**1965**

Aug 20-21	<b>Ritchie Knight and the Mid-Knights</b>	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Aug 19 <sup>th</sup>
-----------	---	--

**1966**

May 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Jeff and the Fugitives</b>	Toronto Telegram After Four Section May 5 <sup>th</sup> "Grand Opening" (for the season)
Jul 15, 16	<b>The Twilights (Fri)</b> <b>Ritchie Knight and the Mid-Knights (Sat)</b>	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Jul 14 <sup>th</sup> p.8
July 29	<b>The Fugitives</b>	From an advertizement in Peter Young's book Let's Dance, p.104
July 30	<b>Barry Allen, Wes Dakus and His Rebels</b>	also from Peter Young's book Let's Dance, p.104 and confirmed Toronto Telegram After Four Section Jul 28 <sup>th</sup> p.10
Sep 10	<b>The Mynah Birds</b>	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Sep 8 <sup>th</sup> p.12
Sep 17	<b>Roy Kenner and the Associates</b>	Toronto Telegram (Tely) After Four Section Sep 15 <sup>th</sup> p.10

**1967**

May 6	<b>The Magic Cycle (?)</b>	Tely After Four Section May 4 <sup>th</sup> p.10 After Four Section
May 20	<b>The Lords of London</b>	

Jun 30      **The Martells**      Barrie Examiner June 28<sup>th</sup>, p.4 advertisement as advertising is revived.



Jul 1      **The Ugly Ducklings**      as above

Aug 4      **Little Caesar and the Consuls**      Barrie Examiner Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> advertisement and the Telegram After Four Section Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, p.9 (heavy advertising for Civic holiday)

Aug 11      **The Citations**      Barrie Examiner Aug 11<sup>th</sup>, advertisement

Sep 7      **The Wee Beasties**      Barrie Examiner Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, advertisement

Sep 16      **The Diplomats**      Tely After Four Section Sep 14<sup>th</sup>, p.12

#### **1968**

May 4      **Leigh Ashford R&B Group**      Tely After Four Section May 4<sup>th</sup>  
(Dancing Season Opens)

May 25      **Magic Cycle**      Tely After Four Section May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Jun 1      **The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Drawing Room**      Tely After Four Section May 30<sup>th</sup>, p.10

Jun 8	<b>The Bitter Sweet</b>	Tely After Four Section Jun 6 <sup>th</sup>
Jun 15	<b>Lynda Lane &amp; The Martells</b>	Tely After Four Section Jun 13 <sup>th</sup>
Jun 29	<b>The Tombstones</b>	Tely After Four Section Jun 27 <sup>th</sup> , p.8
Jul 13	<b>Little Diane &amp; The Delphi Revue</b>	Tely After Four Section Jul 11 <sup>th</sup> , p.8
Jul 20	<b>Little Caesar &amp; The Consuls</b>	Tely After Four Section Jul 18 <sup>th</sup> , p.8
Jul 27	<b>The Bitter Sweet Blues Band</b>	Tely After Four Section Jul 25 <sup>th</sup> , p.8
Aug 3	<b>The Carnival</b>	Tely After Four Section Aug 1 <sup>st</sup> , p.9
Aug 10	<b>The Scarborough Fair</b>	Tely After Four Section Aug 7 <sup>th</sup> , p.8
Aug 17	<b>The Dynamics</b>	Personal communication with Lynn Wilkins and Tely After Four Aug 15 <sup>th</sup> , p.12  Gail Paterson - bass & vocals, Lynn Hancox - keyboards & lead vocals, Naida Stein (RIP) - drums & vocals, Linda Allard - Leader - guitar & vocals.
Aug 24	<b>Edward Bear Revue</b>	Tely After Four Section Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup> . P.8
Aug 31	<b>The Private Collection</b>	Tely After Four Section Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> p.10 (note the After Four section moves to Saturdays from Thursdays)



**1969**

May 3	<b>The Quiet Jungle</b>	Tely May 1 <sup>st</sup> After Four Section Classified "Dance Season Opens"
May 10	<b>Sunday's Calendar</b>	Tely May 8 <sup>th</sup> After Four Section Classified
May 17	<b>Brutus</b>	Tely May 15 <sup>th</sup> After Four Section Classified
May 24	<b>The Eighth Day</b>	Tely May 22 <sup>nd</sup> After Four Section Classified
May 31	<b>The Dynamics</b>	Tely May 29 <sup>th</sup> After Four Section Classified
Jun 14	<b>Gulliver's Travels</b>	Tely Jun 12 <sup>th</sup> After Four Section Classified
Jun 21	<b>The Bedtime Story</b>	Tely Jun 19 <sup>th</sup> After Four Section Classified
Jun 28	<b>The Mid-Nights featuring Karrin Kling</b>	Tely Jun 26 <sup>th</sup> After Four Section Classified
Jul 5	<b>The Spectrums</b>	Tely Jul 3 <sup>rd</sup> After Four Section Classified
Jul 12	<b>Edward Bear</b>	Tely Jul 10 <sup>th</sup> After Four Section Classified
Jul 19	<b>The Sunday Calendar</b>	Tely Jul 17 <sup>th</sup> After Four Section Classified
Jul 26	<b>Brutus</b>	Tely Jul 24 <sup>th</sup> After Four Section Classified
Aug 2	<b>Tote Family</b>	Tely Jul 31 <sup>st</sup> After Four Section Classified
Aug 30	<b>The Dynamics</b>	Tely Aug 28 <sup>th</sup> After Four Section Classified

1970

May 2      **Elinor Fox**

Barrie Examiner May 1<sup>st</sup>, advertisement



Tely Apr 30<sup>th</sup> After Four Classified (*Dance Season Opens*)

May 16      **Buffalo Grass**

Tely May 14<sup>th</sup> After Four Classified

Based on archived material from the Innisfil Historical Society, Peggy's didn't remain open as a dance hall much longer; going the way so many dance halls across Ontario had gone and would continue to go.