

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 10th Line and the 25th 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 10th Line Innisfil and the *Alcona Beach Club* further south near the 8th 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	Anthony and the Apollos	Toronto Telegram After Four Section May 21 st
Jun 13	The Countdowns	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Jun 11 th , p.4
Jun 27	The Fabulous Counts	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Jun 25 th , p.4
Jul 11	Ritchie Knight and the Mid-Knights	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Jul 9 th , p.4
Jul 18	Ritchie Knight and the Mid-Knights	Personal note to this list's author
Jul 25	Ritchie Knight and the Mid-Knights	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Jul 23 rd and Personal note to this list's author
Aug 15	Ritchie Knight and the Mid-Knights	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Aug 13 th
Aug 29	Little Caesar and the Consuls	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Aug 27 th
Oct 10	Little Caesar and the Consuls	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Oct 10 th , p.4

1965

Aug 20-21	Ritchie Knight and the Mid-Knights	Toronto Telegram After Four Section Aug 19 th
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1966

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

1967

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

Jun 30 **The Martells**

Barrie Examiner June 28th, p.4 advertisement as advertising is revived.



Jul 1 **The Ugly Ducklings**

as above

Aug 4 **Little Caesar and the Consuls**

Barrie Examiner Aug 2nd advertisement and the Telegram After Four Section Aug 3rd, p.9 (heavy advertising for Civic holiday)

Aug 11 **The Citations**

Barrie Examiner Aug 11th, advertisement

Sep 7 **The Wee Beasties**

Barrie Examiner Sep 7th, advertisement

Sep 16 **The Diplomats**

Tely After Four Section Sep 14th, p.12

1968

May 4 **Leigh Ashford R&B Group**

Tely After Four Section May 4th (Dancing Season Opens)

May 25 **Magic Cycle**

Tely After Four Section May 23rd

Jun 1 **The 18th Century Drawing Room**

Tely After Four Section May 30th, p.10

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

1969

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

1970

May 2

Elinor Fox

Barrie Examiner May 1st, advertisement



Tely Apr 30th After Four Classified (*Dance Season Opens*)

May 16

Buffalo Grass

Tely May 14th 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.