

# Luck of the Irish for downtown Aurora

## BallyDoyle's Pub opens to rave reviews

By Erika Wurst  
EWURST@SCN1.COM

AURORA — Men in kilts and pints of Guinness — the two evoke thoughts of an Irish getaway, rather than a trip to downtown Aurora.

But that changed on Friday with the grand opening of BallyDoyle's Irish Pub and Restaurant, and Aurora resident Chris Nelson couldn't be happier.

"I can't believe this place," he said, looking around the elaborately decorated new restaurant on New York Street. "You couldn't ask for something more in Aurora."

The standing-room-only crowd seemed to agree. BallyDoyle's was packed with people from every corner of the city. Moms and dads mingled with

their 20-something children, and groupies of the popular U2 cover band Elevation crowded the stage with shrieks and looks of adoration as a pseudo-Bono shredded his guitar.

The new building takes up almost an entire block and is filled with quaint rooms and Fox River overlooks. It's a beautiful building that people have been waiting patiently to open since word of BallyDoyle's coming to Aurora hit the street.

Flowers adorned the entrance, with little notes at-

tached, congratulating the owners and staff on their grand opening.

Waitresses — full trays in hand — scooted past tables of friends serving up food and drink to excited folks in great spirits. On the wall, a countdown to St. Patrick's Day, which will no doubt be an evening of celebration at the pub, a reincarnation of the original BallyDoyle's in Downers Grove.

"It's very cool knowing that the city is coming back," said

Montgomery resident Danielle Whelan. "It's a completely different crowd and will boost the downtown economy."

People mingling outside the pub are more likely to stop by the casino or visit downtown shops, Whelan said, and will bring a new vitality to the area.

Tina Kutcherk came from Downers Grove to Aurora to visit the new location. The stage, she said, is much bigger, though the atmosphere not as quaint.

"It's not as intimate (as the other location), but there, Bono practically falls off the stage," she said with a chuckle. "It's so hard to get into a U2 show, so it's great to be able to see (Elevation) locally. They are a very talented band."

And a band that will likely be back again and again, to the dismay of several husbands in the audience.

"Great," they said, standing behind screaming wives. "Now we'll get to see this band every month."