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A story of faith

Seasoned crooner set
to release 'miracle' book

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

For some people, a slice of toast hits the spot first thing in the morning, while for others, a bowl of cereal quells the appetite like nothing else. But Milton resident Danny Brooks prefers morning sustenance of a more lasting variety.

Miracle anyone?

'Miracles for Breakfast' is the title of the local singer/songwriter's book, which is slated for release next month at major bookstores including Chapters and on-line at Amazon.

"I feel honoured and privileged beyond anything I can put into words," Brooks said as he anticipates the release.

Brooks will hold a public launch Thursday, Feb. 28 at Burloak Christian Fellowship in Oakville.

Subtitled 'How Faith Helped Me Kick My Addictions,' Miracles for Breakfast details Brooks' journey from the depths of despair to a place of healing.

The title sprang from an observation he once made to his wife, Debra, shortly after he was released from an addiction treatment facility.

He was reading the Bible at the breakfast table and remarked that the many supernatural occurrences he was reading about made it feel as if he was having "miracles for breakfast."

For some reason, that phrase stuck with him.

With a roller coaster life that eventually included a conversion to Christianity, Brooks said he's no stranger to miracles.

In fact, he said it was a miracle that was largely responsible for his turning to God.

Highly-personal account

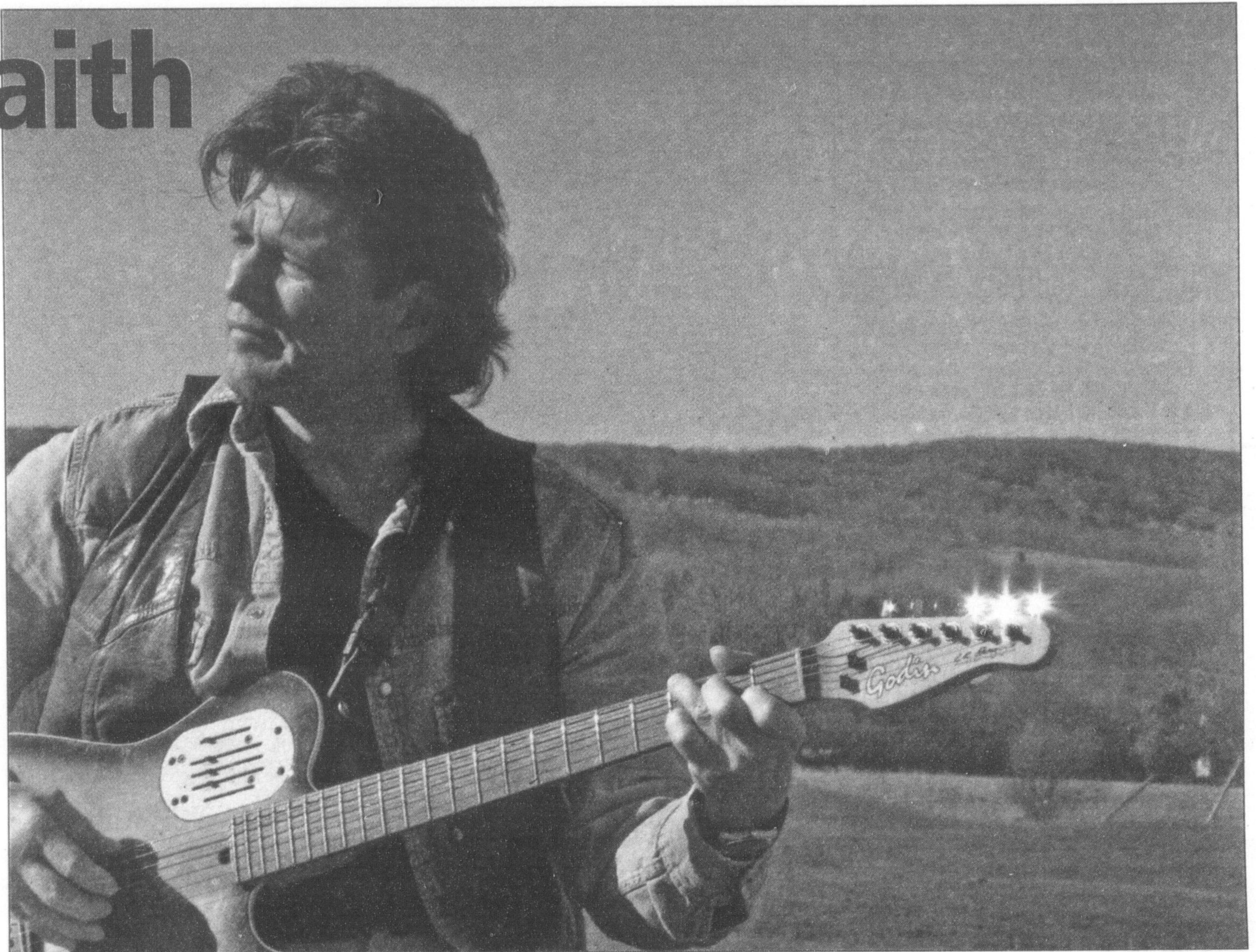
Brooks — who recently released his eighth "southern soul" album and was nominated for numerous awards at the recent Maple Blues Awards — describes the book as "equal parts biographical, inspirational and motivational with an inside look at the music business, experiencing the miraculous and getting over addictions."

While the respected musician has been writing songs for years, this was his first foray into the world of writing, a process that was a long time coming.

He said he hopes this book will help people going through struggles similar to his, but added he thinks it can be an inspirational read for just about anyone.

Brooks' life hasn't been a charmed one, to say the least.

For decades his closest friends were drugs and alcohol,



FAITHFUL SINGER: Local musician Danny Brooks is eagerly awaiting his soon-to-be-released book 'Miracles for Breakfast.'

which left lasting effects on his body and mind.

"From 1972 to 1987 I drank every day. First thing in the morning, it was the only way I could face society," he said.

He met Debra in 1986.

"I knew I had a problem and I was crying out to God to send someone who could love me in spite of myself. That's when Debbie came along."

Debra encouraged her husband to check into the Donwood Institute, a drug rehab facility, and that's where he said he experienced his first miracle.

When he arrived, he had bleeding ulcers and a triglyceride count far above normal, among other damage from his destructive lifestyle.

He was at major risk of having a heart attack.

At that point, he prayed a simple prayer asking God to give him another chance and restore his health.

Shortly thereafter, a doctor checked him and was shocked at what he found.

"Your insides are that of a person who's never done anything," the surprised doctor told him.

Brooks started writing Miracles for Breakfast in 2002 but found it daunting and put it back on the shelf until 2005. By

the following year, it was finished.

He hooked up with many of the right people along the way, who helped bring the book to fruition.

A call from publisher John Wiley and Sons was the final step.

In addition to his new life as an author, Brooks is continuing his work as a singer/songwriter, performing across Canada and the United States.

His most recent album, No Easy Way Out, was released in September and has garnered airplay on various radio stations.

His southern soul style is a blend of blues, rock, country, gospel and R and B. Brooks was recently nominated for four Maple Blues Awards — the Junos of the blues world — including best singer, best songwriter and album of the year.

"It's hard to put into words the thrill and magic of performing," Brooks said.

Although he doesn't know exactly what's around the corner, Brooks said that's okay with him.

"Wherever God will bring me, that's where I want to go."

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