

CD a lengthy process, says Sales

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 liked. It's as country as I wanted it to sound."

Helping her release the album were producer Peter Linseman (Music Mentor Productions) and Sales' own mentor, Joao Carualho (Joao Carualho Mastering Corp).

"It's probably taken close to four years (to release this album)," noted Sales, adding she met a lot of people during the process.

One of them was musical legend Jeff Healey, who ended up playing in two songs on the album.

"I took my time with it because I wanted to write songs of my own. I'd rather have good songs and quality material than rush out an album."

Sales recently returned from Calgary where she performed for 10 days at the Calgary Stampede.

"Performing live is the best opportunity to connect with your audience. I hope that connection translates on the CD but I feel it translates better in person."

Sales was born in Milton where she lived until the age of 10 when her family moved to Muskoka.

"I moved back to the area because there is more happening in the city. There is more opportunity to be had in this area."

Sales, who now lives in Burlington, remembers her childhood and growing up in Milton fondly.

"I love Milton. It was a perfect time to grow up there."

Sales knew she wanted to be an entertainer from an early age. Beyond music, Sales has dabbled in acting and was crowned Miss Toronto 2001.

"It's a fun experience," said Sales of

the role. "It's great for exposure. But I was really surprised when I won. I stood there for 30 seconds after they called my name until someone said, 'Uh that was your name they called.' I'm just trying to do whatever I could to get out there."

Her other credits include being the voice behind Sears' national campaign inviting one and all to see the softer side of Sears. She worked on the set of 'The Tuxedo' starring Jackie Chan and Jennifer Love Hewitt, and 'Ice Princess' starring Kim Cattrall.

Currently, her album is for sale only on her Web site but will be available elsewhere soon. "This album is a piece of art for me. What I created is what I wanted to create, and not what people wanted it to be."

Upcoming shows and songs can be viewed at www.tarasales.com.

Hearthside series starts new season

Delicious food, great jazz and a homey atmosphere are what organizers of the Hearthside Dinner and Music Series are offering for its upcoming concert.

The Halton Museum Foundation kicks off its eighth year of the series September 23 with dinner and a concert by Mood Indigo.

The event will take place in the cozy Hearth Room at Halton Region Museum, off Tremaine Road, in Kelso Conservation Area.

Mood Indigo will perform a mix of light jazz and pop sung by Monika Burany and accompanied by Brent Settington on keyboard and Peter Smith on saxophone.

Doors will open at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m., followed by Mood Indigo's performance until 11 p.m. Tickets cost \$45.

This series is a fundraising initiative to support the second phase of a multi-phase improvement plan for the Halton Region Museum. Proceeds will go toward the construction of a new artifact centre to house the museum's 35,000 artifacts.

Tickets are available by calling (905) 875-2200, ext. 21. For more information, visit www.halton.ca/museum/.

It's Indian summer at Crawford Lake

Crawford Lake conservation area is inviting residents to soak up the sun and make the most of the last days of the season with its upcoming Indian Summer Festival.

The 19th annual event, celebrating Ontario's aboriginal heritage, will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Feel the drumbeat as the White Pine Dancers take the stage in the reconstructed Iroquoian Village. Interactive performances will take place at 1 and 3 p.m.

Guest presenters Chief Top Leaf and Joe Paquette will help visitors learn about Iroquoian culture through captivating storytelling sessions throughout the day.

And kids can challenge themselves with craft making and discovery hunts while adults enjoy a taste of 'nature's tea'.

A barbecue will satisfy the munchies. Crawford Lake is located at the corner of Steeles Avenue and Guelph Line. For more information, call (905) 854-0234 or visit www.conservationhalton.on.ca.

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