

# Janetta rocks into Stouffville's Deer Park

**By KATE GILDERDALE**  
The Deer Park Inn is adding to its reputation as a hot night spot by featuring the popular rock band Janetta, currently performing downstairs at O'Farrell's every weekend.

Singer Patti Janetta and the group — bass guitarist and vocalist Steve Skingley; lead guitarist Dave Dunlop; drummer John Jobson and keyboardist Steve Thomas — ably perform everything from old Beatles' songs and top 40 hits to some original numbers from her latest 'Breathless' album.

The Toronto singer-songwriter started singing in high school, where she was first discovered by a CHUM-FM disc jockey in 1974.

"We were doing a rock musical we had written and produced at the school and his sister was in my class," she explains. "He saw me and suggested I should sing professionally."

After doing some work in Toronto, Janetta joined a Canadian touring production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar' which took her to Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

"When I came back I really started from scratch, touring with bands and doing the whole of North America from coast to coast. Four-and-a-half years ago I did my first album."

Soon afterwards, she signed on with an agent.

"I was sent to Poland and sang for Canada at the International Song Festival there," she recalls. Forty-three countries were represented at the event. She was the only singer from North America.

To her delight she won the award as favorite artist of the 60 musicians at the festival, where she sang before an audience of 20,000.

"It was a big honor," she says. "There were some really great singers from all over the world." When she came back, she continued to do live performances as well as working in the recording studio. She also did some television work, including her own show on CFTO.

And she was much happier with 'Breathless' than with her previous album, she admits.

"I co-wrote seven of the songs and I'm quite proud of it." The group is already working on the next record, and she's delighted she'll be working with her own band this time around.

"The other one was done with session musicians. I met my band about two months after I recorded it and I wish I'd been able to do it with them," she says.

Janetta put the band together by calling the music department at Humber College. She spoke to Dave Dunlop and

he contacted the rest of the group. "They had all played together and were friends," she recalls. "I just seemed to fit right in with them." When the newly formed band crossed Canada on a tour, they got along "marvellously."

Although they play a wide variety of music, Janetta's first love is rhythm and blues. She co-wrote Bo Diddley's "Make Up Your Mind Tonight," which has just been released on compact disc. She and Diddley became friends when they appeared in a show

together. She's also done concerts with Long John Baldry and Ronnie Hawkins and headlined at the Royal York with The Hawk and Bo Diddley two years ago. When she was offered the opportunity to appear at The Deer

Park Inn, Janetta jumped at it. "I'd been away touring for three months and living out of suitcases. I wanted to stay put," she smiles. She'll also be working on a new video for her latest single, "Secrets From

Your Room," from the "Breathless" album, as well as doing more television. Janetta appears at O'Farrell's Friday and Saturday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. and on Sunday nights from 7 until 11 p.m.



Photo/KATE GILDERDALE  
Singer Patti Janetta brings her fresh brand of entertainment to the Deer Park Inn after a three-month stint touring with her band, aptly named Janetta. Patti's musical roots go back to her high school days when she worked on a rock musical with other students. She is currently promoting her latest album, 'Breathless.'

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