

David Thompson brings experience to country music comeback

David Thompson pulled into Stouffville last month from Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, a little timeworn perhaps, but with the determination and maturity that comes from having endured hard times.

David is a career musician, a country singer/songwriter who knows how fleeting success can be in a business with absolutely no guarantees. He had no less than 14 Canadian top 40 country chart hits



From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley

from 1976 through the mid '80s. Three of his songs went to top 10, and one, Rachel, made it all the way to the top. For 12 years, he

toured Canada with his band, called David Thompson and Thunder Road — as in Thunder Bay, the place he called home for more than a decade after growing up in Detroit.

It was while performing as an amateur in Thunder Bay that he had been discovered by the man who would become his manager, Chuck Williams. Williams had also discovered a promising young talent named Loretta Lynn a few

years previous.

After putting together a few demo tapes, David and his new manager sent their product off to RCA in Toronto, and he was signed to a two-record deal in 1975. While that opportunity fizzled, the result of David straying away from the pure country sound that had become his trademark, he went to Nashville to cut a few records on Williams' own independent label three years later.

David's first effort went as far as number 27 on the Canadian country charts, and he was on his way. With his new success came appearances on the Family Brown, Tommy Hunter, and Ian Tyson shows, among others. But the bubble burst when an accounting miscue led to his going bankrupt over the issue of some government back taxes in 1987. It was at that point he disappeared, taking refuge in Saskatchewan. David kept busy playing weddings, stags and dances in the Meadow Lake area.

But now, six years later, he's looking to make a fresh start in the business. He picked Stouffville as the new home for his wife and young children because he liked the country flavor it offered.

He's already made some local inroads, working with the likes of Ballantrae's country singer/songwriter William Wallace, and playing at a recent Stouffville Legion function. If all goes according to plan, David will be back in the recording studio this spring, with a single set to go come summer time.

He feels the time is right for his comeback. Country music — or the New Country — has broadened its scope. He hopes to get a jump start from the fact there must still be a few DJs out there who remember his name from past days. He's also banking on his new maturity to help him re-establish himself. For David is nothing if not experienced.

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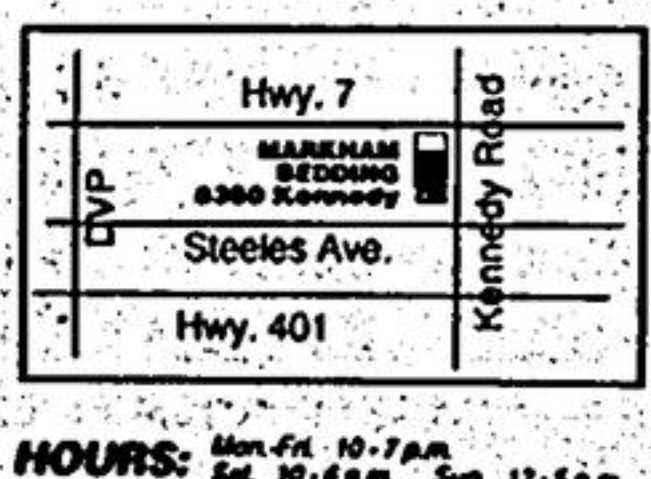
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