



Marion Drexler will launch her first CD next Saturday at Nineteen on the Park in downtown Stouffville.

ARTS: All-Stouffville CD launch next weekend

Recording artist began singing karaoke

BY STEPHANIE WEST
Marion Drexler is all about Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The singer/songwriter will launch her first CD, *Labours of Love*, at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment — Nineteen on the Park in downtown Stouffville next Saturday.

"We wanted to keep it local," she said. "Most people supporting us are from Stouffville."

She's also a big fan of the acoustics in the two-year-old theatre.

The 11-song collection deals with aspects of love with a unique country pop feel.

A Stouffville resident for 13 years, Ms Drexler and her band have played many local venues and private functions. She can also be heard in worship teams at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church in Stouffville and The Olive Branch Community Church in Markham.

"Music has always been an important part of my life," she said, "I couldn't picture my life without it."

Her music career was launched singing karaoke in the early 1990s.

She later met her husband, Don Maitland, who is now the bass player

in her band. "I always wanted to sing, but I didn't know I had a voice," Ms Drexler said.

She continued to write her own songs but also worked with Stouffville lyricist Harold Hutchings on five songs for the album.

The CD was produced by Barry Haggarty at Haggarty Sound Studio in Peterborough.

One of the songs has been used in a video to support the group Helping Homeless Pets and another incorporated in her personal fundraising

campaign for Sick Kids Hospital.

All profits from the show will go to the homeless pets group, a charity based in Markham that assists approximately 40 private pet rescues and adoption facilities.

"I hate the idea of people abandoning (pets)," she said. "It drives me crazy when I hear about animal abuse."

"I always wanted to sing, but I didn't know I had a voice."

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the box office. Go to nineteenonthe-park.com/ or call 905-640-2322.

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