

# Lawnie making up for 'The Lost Years' with new record

The year was 1987. The location was Stouffville's Royal Canadian Legion, then on Ninth Line North. The event, hosted by Branch 459, celebrated the Easter Seal campaign.



## Roaming Around with Jim Thomas

career. On Tuesday, she'll launch a highly anticipated album, the second of her career. It's entitled *The Lost Years* and includes 12 tracks of songs.

Its introduction will take place between 7 and 9 p.m., within the quaint inner-city site of Toronto's Liberty Village. Lawnie will sing several album selections. As expected, autographed purchases can be made on location. They'll also be available via her website as well as on Twitter, Instagram, Google and Youtube.

The album has been two years

in the making, explains Lawnie. Each song is an original and independently written including the title tune. "In it, my heart cries out," she says. Another, labelled Sweet One, relates to the family's deceased but treasured dog Zepelin. She describes her music as organic country rock.

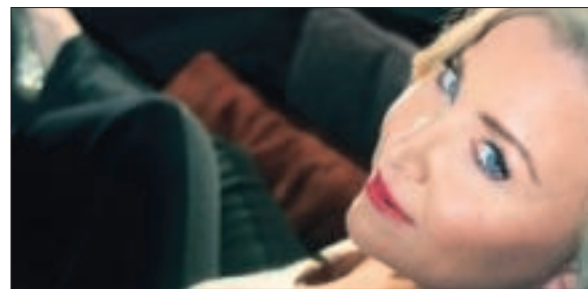
Lawnie's initial album, *Thought I Was Dreaming*, was recorded in Nashville. Its release was an event she'll never forget.

"When I first heard it on my car radio, I indeed thought I was dreaming," she remembers with a deft take on the title. In Canada, it was among hit parade's top 10 with a single from it hitting No. 8.

One of two in the family of Bill and Kathy Wallace, Lawnie attended Ballantrae Public School and Stouffville Secondary.

"I had a really good childhood," she said. English and drama were favourite subjects. She vividly recalls singing at a high school Christmas concert. Later, she performed locally at Stouffville's Strawberry Festival, the Stouffville Country Market, Nineteen on the Park, Success Square and St. James Presbyterian Church.

On one occasion she teamed up



Lawnie Wallace will release her second album in Toronto next week.

with former Stouffville resident Grant Fullerton of Lighthouse fame.

In 1996, she was the recipient of Whitchurch-Stouffville's coveted Music Town, Ontario award.

A sad time, she recalls, was the passing of her grandfather, her grandmother and her uncle. She sang at their funerals. "Those experiences, while distressing, brought me back to my purpose," she notes.

In 1993, Lawnie won a vocal competition at Newmarket's Upper Canada Mall and a year later found herself front and centre when up-and-coming country music star Shania Twain appeared on the same stage.

"She (Shania), was and still is such a normal person, even humble," she says. "She's taken country music to a whole new level." To this day, however, Patsy Cline remains her idol.

But no more so than her father. "My dad has always been my mentor," she says. "He's kept me grounded."

She's hopeful that on an anticipated third album, they can perform several songs together.

While currently residing in Toronto, Lawnie spends much of her time at Ballantrae.

"I stay in touch with my roots," she says. "I know where I am, where I've been and where I'm going. And I'll never forget where I'm from."

Although big-city life can be exciting, there's no place like home, she claims. Equally exciting will be the launch of her brand new album.

"I can't wait," she said.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years.

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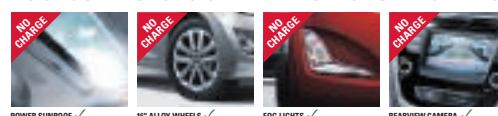
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