

Country artist coming home

Diane Johnston
Speaker Reporter

ST. CATHARINES – Wendy Lynn Snider is coming home to Temagami, and she's bringing some friends.

On July 5, the country and gospel artist who grew up in Temagami will perform with her band at the Bunny Miller Theatre in the Welcome Centre.

It's the first major hometown show for the singer, who has moved from performing at campfires and kitchen parties several years ago to working on her third CD.

In a telephone interview earlier this week, she admitted to feeling a little tense.

"I'm thinking, 'oh my gosh, I'm going to be so full of nerves,'" she said.

A member of the Temagami First Nation, she grew up in and around Temagami and graduated from New Liskeard Secondary School.

She grew up in a musical family – her father, a fan of Johnny Cash, frequently sang in public, and her mother was the long-time organist at St. Elizabeth's in Temagami.

A grandmother in Windsor sang on the radio for many years,

and her brother earned a living from his music for a time while living in the West.

She too sang occasionally.

But after studying at Canadore College in North Bay, she said she moved to southern Ontario and focused on her family and her work as a legal secretary and assistant.

Her first marriage ended in divorce a little over a decade ago.

MUSICAL CAREER

She remarried, and credits her husband Curt Snider for spurring her to take a musical career seriously.

"He gave me the kick in the butt. He said, 'People need to hear you.'"

(They've cowritten a number of songs, including "Online Flower," which is the story of how they met online and fell in love.)

She began performing at open mic nights in St. Catharines "to get my nerve up."

Through contacts made on that circuit, she and her husband went to Nashville where she recorded her first CD, *Life is Good*, in 2010.

She then reconnected with another high school friend, Mike Peters, who is based in Kitchener

and has worked in the music industry for many years.

"Thirty something years later, we hook up, and next thing you know, he's helping us get our second album on the go," she said.

He's the executive producer of her second, self-titled album, which was released in November, 2011.

He also put together the show she's bringing to Temagami and will be playing in the band.

She said she's had the opportunity to work with "amazing" musicians, both in the studio and on stage.

She's now at work on a third CD that incorporates more gospel tunes.

"That's actually where my passion is. I want to do a gospel-country album."

Local audiences can catch her show in Temagami, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

She'll be at the Miners' Tavern in Cobalt the next night, and returns to the area July 25 and 26 for Sutton Bay Park's Countryfest.



Local audiences will have several opportunities in July to hear country artist Wendy Lynn Snider, who grew up in and around Temagami. She'll be in Temagami and Cobalt next week and at Sutton Bay Park's Countryfest later this month. (Supplied Photo)

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