

This is one of the hardest things I've had to write. Not sure how this will go but will do my best.

It is with mixed emotions and a very sad heart that I am announcing the breakup of the band.

There is nothing wrong, it's not due to artistic differences, and we are not fighting-even though Janet was running around my house in my big shoes making fun of my big feet on Tuesday night.

I have been thinking about this for a while and have come to the point in my life where I need to shift my focus from playing in bars, managing 5-6 people's schedules for gigs and rehearsals, P.A. Inquiries, working with various bar owner's to book gigs, charting new songs and promoting the band/gigs to trying to sell some of my songs as I can't do both with everything else that daily life brings.

I have spent the past 18 years playing with Janet and Jean, 6 years with Aimee, 6 years with Topher in this band plus another 2 years in a Blues band years ago and various gigs with J.J. Sheppard on Trumpet over the years.

We became extremely close friends from the very first gig we played at The Rose Café on November 16, 1994. We have played approximately 400 shows together, played over 12,000 songs not counting rehearsals, spent numerous holidays, special occasions, meals, camping trips, and movie nights together over the years. We have all been there for each other during the difficult times life presents having supported each other through some very rough days and nights indeed. We have laughed, we have cried, we have had differences of opinion, we have grown, we have learned, we have loved and we have created together. They are my family as I am theirs and ultimately that's the best feeling in the world!

For those of you not familiar with the music business and bar bands 18 years is an amazing run. It is not easy finding 5-6 musicians who work so well together that long - truly very special.

So to Janet, Aimee, Jean and Topher - you are all amazing human beings and I love you dearly. It has been an honor playing with you all. You have all taught me so much about music and have been, and will continue to be, an extremely important part of my life.

It was fate 18 years ago when I walked into a bar on Yonge St and met you Janet while playing piano at Trax to ask if you wanted to join a band I was just putting together, fate when you came to the Rose to see us Jean to decide if you wanted to join us, fate when you came into the fold with us Aimee filling some pretty big guitar shoes!, fate when I met you 20 years ago in Dylan's band Topher only to hook up again years later in this band. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for not only your hard work and dedication to the music but to our friendships which will continue into eternity.

To all of our Friends/Fans and Bar Owners\Staff - One of the most difficult parts of all this is announcing this to you.

We've been extremely blessed to have shared this time with you, and for the love you've shown us, we are humbled, moved and thankful beyond words. You supported us, encouraged us and became a very key reason why we've played together for 18 years. You kept us going!

So I can't write this without a big Thank You to each and every one of you for what you've given to us over the years.

Although this is the official end to "The Elaine Dark Band" it does not mean we will not get together from time to time to create/play music. It will just be under the marquee of some friends getting together to play.

We will be doing our final show on Saturday, March 3rd 2012 at the Palais Royale to celebrate 18 wonderful years together hopefully with some of the former band members joining us for nostalgic flair.

I have always considered myself a songwriter first with performing live shows a vehicle to showcase my writing. This is where my focus needs to be.

For the first time in my life I will be pursuing my song writing career with all of my available energy moving forward and look forward to the challenge and what the unknown will bring to my door-BRING IT!. Who knows ... maybe Olivia Newton John will finally record "Love Easy" (a song I wrote in the late 80's that was very close to appearing on her record) :-)

I walk away with a great sense of gratitude and astonishment at all we've accomplished!

Thank you so much for Listening over the years and today.

I would like to also encourage you all to continue to support Janet, Jean, Aimee and Topher in their musical projects. They are all very magical musicians and deserve to be heard by the masses.

To all Former members and guests:

I also want to send out a big thank you to all former band members and guest singers that have graced us with some great chops\songs at our shows over the years.

Former Members

Beverly Bratty-Drums\Vocals

Très De La Comte –Acoustic Guitar\Vocals

Dylan Wickens-Lead Guitar

Rob Kay-Lead Guitar

Warren Gross-Guitar

Conny Nowe-Drums

George Holyoke-Drums\Vocals

Jay Fleming-Drums

Brent Rubeli -Sax

J.J. Sheppard-Trumpet

Guest Singers

Heather Bambrick

Elana Harte

Rita Chiarelli

Diana Young

Heather Pollock

Joanne Marchionna

Makeda Taylor

Kim Johnson (RIP)

Moxie Moxon

Suzy Richter

Gloria Shreve

Cindy Smith

Elvis (Deb)

Jack (my nephew)

Johanna Swan

Dianne Fontaine

Leah Hackett

Avery Pitcher

Jackie Robinson

There have been many more guests over the years and I thank all of you for joining us!

I wish you all much joy, happiness and music in your lives!

Love,

Elaine