

By Kathie J. Meredith
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CANANDAIGUA - A Bon Jovi concert was the catalyst for change in the life of Kris Hadlock. With a mother who taught accordion lessons, Hadlock started his musical route on that instrument and dabbled with drums, piano and saxophone.

"I was a school band geek," chuckles the man who grew up in Victor. '

In his early teens, he attended a Bon Jovi concert.

"That kind of forever changed my life," Hadlock acknowledges.

He turned to rock 'n' roll and, following his 1991 graduation from McQuaid Jesuit High School, he went on the road with the Chesterfield Kings for a while.

Music has also taken him to Nashville where he got a recording deal and created an album video. There he was, in leather pants and screaming in a 1997 Nashville that was "still very country." It was not successful.

He journeyed to California where he did some modeling, appeared on "The Bold and the Beautiful," a daytime drama, and in B movies and admits that he may have spread himself too thin.

Returning to New York, Hadlock settled in the West Bloomfield hamlet of Ionia. He formed a new band and gave it his last name.

This band will entertain from noon to 2 p.m. during the Tuesday, July 4, celebration at Canandaigua's Kershaw Park. The band features Bob Maslin of Farmington on drums and vocals, Bryan Babcock of Canandaigua on piano and keyboard, Scotti Roblee of Le Roy on guitar, and Jeremy Rezz, also of Le Roy, on bass guitar.

And, of course, Kris Hadlock on guitar and vocals.

Hadlock the musician is also working on "An American Rock Star," a two-hour documentary dealing with his life and the band formation. He gives music lessons at his home-studio. Another project involves a CD that he hopes will be out before Christmas.

What type of music does Hadlock the-band, offer?

"Infectious" and "high energy" are words he uses to describe the music.

"And it's very relatable. We're not trying to sell music to kids," says Hadlock of the sounds that appeal both to his daughter, 4, and his mom, 64.

Still, he acknowledges that the target audience is made up of women from 30 to 45, "women who grew up in the 80's and saw Bon-Jovi and Motley Crew."

They are the mothers who may be 35 now with three kids and a husband.

"If the girls come, their husbands and boyfriends are going to come" to the concerts, he believes.

The band's music is also written by Hadlock "The more life you live, the more drama and happiness you experience, the more you can relate to people," he says.

There are zillions of bands roaming the country. What makes the-band Hadlock special among those bands?

"I think the fact that ... we're not bringing something back. We're continuing something," answers the musician Hadlock, who will turn 34 tomorrow (Friday, June 30). "We're truly bringing back the '80s feel with ... a contemporary edge to it."

He hopes that someday he will appear as host and musical guest for a famous long-running television show.

"My biggest goal is to be on Saturday Night Live.' Really - to hear 'Ladies and gentlemen, Hadlock!

"All the work that it takes to get to that level, to be nationally known band, to hear my songs on the radio, to hear my songs in movies."

And if critics pan the music, Hadlock doesn't care.

"My goal is to be liked by the masses, not by the critics."