

Vaughan-based Million Dollar Smiles surprises cancer patient with backyard playground

SUBMITTED BY
MILLION DOLLAR SMILES

A little miracle took place this past weekend when Million Dollar Smiles built four-year-old Andrea Rico Alfaro her very own playground in her own backyard.

Andrea has been battling cancer for more than two years and Million Dollar Smiles surprised the little girl and her family with a little something to brighten their day.

"We are really excited as this is the third of four playgrounds we will be building for children living with life threatening illnesses this summer," said Anna Lopes, founder and director of Million Dollar Smiles. "Million Dollar Smiles, is a non-profit organization that exists primarily to put smiles on the faces of people facing major challenges in their everyday lives."

In today's world we often take many small precious moments for granted, those simple moments that instantly make our lives a little brighter and richer. With every smile given and

received, our hearts get a little stronger and in return only brings true happiness.

"I'm a member of a Facebook group called Marc Trinidad Inspiration Fanatics and one of our beliefs is that we must return blessings we've received back into circulation in our communities," said Marc Trinidad. "Million Dollar Smiles fits right in with that philosophy. I put the word out to the group that Million Dollar Smiles needed a sponsor for Andrea, and they answered the call through online donations. We are honoured to play a part in this project and look forward to doing it again," he said.

"We are incredibly proud to be a part of this amazing experience," said Andrea and Mike De Francesco. "We recently got married in June and were able to do a fundraiser at our Bridal shower to raise some of the funds for Andrea's Playground.

Over 10 volunteers were on site at the Rico Alfaro house on Saturday helping to put a smile on her face.



This past Saturday, Million Dollar Smiles – a Vaughan-based non-profit organization – built a backyard playground for Andrea Rico Alfaro (middle, held up), a four-year-old cancer stricken girl from Toronto. Alfaro has been battling cancer for more than two years.

Submitted photo



Labour Day Monday

September 6, 2010

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The Maple Cruisers present

THE CRUISE FOR THE CAUSE

Help us support the Kidney Foundation of Canada

- Custom & Classic Car "Show & Shine"
- Race Cars: some of the fastest cars on the planet!
- Sponsor donated prizes & trophies in many different categories



- 50/50 draw
- Raffle
- BBQ



\$10 per car donation at gate requested with thanks

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT: "Elvis" & "Frankie Valli"

Hank Daddy's famous BBQ & pulled pork on a bun

Location:

parking lot of Canadian Tire (Maple)
3200 Rutherford Rd. (between Jane St. & Hwy. 400)

ROYFOSSVAUGHAN.com
CHEVROLET @ BUICK GMC



Candidate seeks greater disclosure from City

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part of a year. He said he no longer wanted to engage in café talk about what goes on at the City and instead wants to be part of the solution. He is running for transparency and fairness.

"I think Council did make somewhat of an effort by appointing an Integrity Commissioner, however, I don't think they went far enough with the powers they've given (Integrity Commissioner Suzanne Craig)," he said. "I think the Integrity Commissioner should be able to oversee the whole of the City of Vaughan and address the public's complaints. Out of all the cities in the GTA, we

should be pushing to be number one in transparency and fair play. We need to take the lead."

Di Nardo would also like greater disclosure from the City. He believes there should be detailed minutes to City committee meetings. He said if the meetings cannot be televised, they should be video streamed on the internet. He would also support council meetings shifted to the evening for those who are unable to attend daytime meetings.

"I would support greater exposure to what goes on at the City," said Di Nardo. "We have the technology to do it and why shouldn't it be done that way?"

Di Nardo acknowledged

there is 'very good competition' in the Regional Councillor race, but he hopes enough residents see him as 'an ordinary guy who wants to better the City.'

"Most of the councillors that are there now have been there well over 15 years and I think they've been too comfortable with the job. I think it is time for a change," said Di Nardo.

"I am strictly the voice for the people of the City of Vaughan."

For more information on Regional Councillor candidate Mario Di Nardo, e-mail mariodinarado4vaughan@live.ca. A campaign website is currently under construction.

Cheese Tasting at Market

The Woodbridge Village Farmers Market will be hosting a Tasting of Ontario Cheeses at the Market this Saturday, Aug. 28 from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m..

A selection of five excellent cheeses from artisanal cheesemakers of Southern Ontario will be available. Organic sparkling juices from Southbrook Farms,

which is located in Vaughan, will also be available for sampling.

The Market is asking for a \$2 donation to offset the cost of the cheeses.

The market is located at Market Lane, 140 Woodbridge Ave.

For more information, please call Jamie Maynard at 905-851-0690.