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MARKET MUSINGS: Music in the breeze

By Jan Freedman

Wow. Saturday was another spectacular day at the Farmers' Market. It was sunny, hot and humid but there was a breeze that made it very pleasant. We were treated to music almost all morning courtesy of John Abel's abbreviated Music Festival, which seemed to put everyone in a festive mood. It was a great start to the long weekend.

Now I'd like to introduce another new vendor, Yolanda de Lima e Lobo of Gelmania Candles.

She was born in Goa, India and lived there for the first quarter of her young life. She then moved with her family to Dubai near the south-east part of the Persian Gulf. There she met her husband, Irving, and they had two children. Subsequently, they all moved to Canada after visiting and falling in love with our country. Here they had their third child and added a dog, Oxley, and a kitten, Lila, to the family.

Yolanda is one of six children who are spread all over the globe. Among the seven of them they have 15 siblings and the immediate family count is now at 33. They are a very close-knit family and have reunions every couple of years. They have just completed the building of their parents' ancestral home in Goa which will now be the future reunion destination.

Yolanda's passion for candles began when she was just 8 years old. Her mom was a nurse who helped the sick in Goa by administering their medication, which came in small vials. Once used, they would be washed and Yolanda received the empty vials. She would collect the burnt-out wax candles, melt them in a can, use an old tweed thread as a wick and pour the melted wax into the injection vials. Once the wax hardened, Yolanda would break the vials to get the shape of a candle. Those were her very first candles. Since Goa is mostly Catholic, and people were always lighting candles in church, there was never a shortage of burnt wax.

When they were searching for a location for their first store, their first choice was Aurora. They live close by in Oak Ridges. Once they participated in their first Aurora Home Show, they began receiving invitations to other events in town. As long as their schedules allow them to manage it, they attend as many events as possible, while they both maintain full time jobs.

They love meeting new people and doing shows to experience first-hand how people respond to their candles. Yolanda's passion and hobby is fully supported by her entire family. In fact, her brother and sister, who also live in Richmond Hill, often show up to help at the various craft shows. She is very excited to be a vendor at the Aurora Farmers' Market and invites everyone to stop by her booth to experience her beautiful candles with unique scents. There is even one which is unscented for those who prefer that.

Next Saturday, August 11, will see the Life Gears Academy for youth and teens back at the Market. They focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and Math) while working to strengthen various life skills. They invite all youths entering grades 4-12 to drop by their booth to try a unique building challenge.

Our next Special Event will be our annual Community Corn Roast on August 18 when the entertainment will be provided by my friends and wonderful musicians, David Pilkey and Steve Falk. There will be the usual draw for a Market bag and crafts for the children. Our farmers will provide their locally grown corn which will be barbecued by some invited guests.

See you at the Market!