

MARKET MUSINGS: Indoor Market returns Saturday!

By Jan Freedman

We're halfway through February of the worst winter that I can remember in years.

We have experienced such cold temperatures and so many storms this year that it is no wonder people are complaining about winter fatigue. We will all be so glad when the temperate climate of our spring arrives and let's hope that it isn't too far off!

I am delighted to introduce you to a new vendor at the indoor market and a mother and daughter team. They are Lucy Quintero and Laura Barbosa of Limitless Jewels. They are a Newmarket-based artisan studio offering custom made, handcrafted jewellery for weddings, special occasions and every day wear. Their customers can find a wide range of reasonably priced pieces that they love wearing as much as Lucy and Laura love making them.

Lucy came to Canada five years ago from her native Colombia, with her two children. It was a long and, at times, difficult journey but they are now settled and happy and proud to call Canada home.

Lucy has always had an artistic side that she previously expressed through oil painting and professional floral design. Then, ten years ago, she discovered the joy of jewellery making and her course was clear?she's been a jewellery artisan ever since.

She wears her own designs so often that her friends and co-workers noticed the elegance and originality of her necklaces and earrings and were soon asking her to make pieces for them. So, she opened a studio in her home and thus was born Limitless Jewels. She joined with her beautiful daughter, Laura, who is both her inspiration and support, and they became a team.

Laura is also very creative and is currently studying marketing. She helps her Mom with designs and sales at artisan markets and jewellery parties as well as their website.

Their collection includes a mix of modern and classic designs. Each piece is handcrafted using the finest quality materials: sterling silver and 14K gold-filled combine with semi-precious and precious stones, freshwater pearls, Swarovski and Czech crystals, all perfect for both every day wear or weddings and gifts.

They have also added some accessories like scarves and bookmarkers with jewelled elements so everyone can find a stunning piece to enjoy. They are very proud to introduce a special feature of using Colombian seeds like Tagua in some of their pieces.

The strong seed is sliced or shaped and painted in vibrant colours by Colombian artisans, and then Lucy creates small objects for key chains or jewellery. These always make a unique statement!

Lucy and Laura believe that jewellery makes memories and should be worn with pleasure and pride. This is why they strive to make each piece unique. Most of their pieces are one-of-a-kind or limited editions. To ensure a perfect fit, they can adjust the chain length or a few beads with little or no extra charge.

In Lucy's words, Limitless Jewels is about making girls and women smile.

You will be able to find Lucy and her daughter, Laura, downstairs at the next indoor market on Saturday, February 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre.

Most of your favourite indoor market vendors will be at the next market. These include Sassy Chameleon, Pioneer Brand Honey, Designs by Eva, Nutmeg Catering, Rustic Breads (come early), Kind Organics, Snowden Farm, Catharina's Kitchen, Toscana Bakery, Projet Christina Marie (John Abraham and Fairtrade and bagels and strudel), Jan's Country Pantry, Green River Coffee, 19th Avenue Farm, Green Leaf Designs, Kibo Natural Body Care, Sasha's Sweets, Eurasia Jewellery, Heartsease (Nancy's bags), Oakridges Finest, Crown Valley Bakery, Nature's Rainbow, Limitless Jewels, and two new vendors: Bagel Flame bakers and Dos Mariachi.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank all the friends, neighbours, and Aurorans who have sent good wishes, prayers, cards, flowers and homemade goodies to my husband, Frank, following his recent heart by-pass surgery. I'm delighted to be able to report that, despite a small setback, he is recovering very well and should be well enough to join me at the final indoor market on March 29.

See you at the indoor market!