

# Racing legend Mario Andretti makes appearance in Acton

EAMONN MAHER  
emaher@theifp.ca

## ● MORE ONLINE

Check out our range of social media channels serving up content from [theifp.ca](http://theifp.ca)

tracks, wineries, a clothing line, video games, car washes and his IndyCar race team drivers have won three of the past four Indianapolis 500s.

Andretti even dabbled in acting, appearing in three episodes of the popular TV show *Home Improvement*, but the man with an estimated net worth of more than \$100 million joked Wednesday that showbiz wasn't one of his strong suits.

"(Home Improvement) was the beginning and end of my acting career," he chuckled.

Fans young and old came to the Queens Tire appear-

ance, some carrying race programs and magazines from decades ago. Mario's son Michael won the Toronto Indy a record seven times and grandson Marco is currently on the IndyCar circuit.

The elder Andretti won several races north of the U.S. border over the years in various circuits and was named to the Canadian Motorsports Hall of Fame in 2013.

"I've raced in Toronto, Mosport and Montreal, you name it. My first time racing in Canada was in 1953 and my last race was in '84," he said not long after scratching his autograph on a grown man's stomach.

"I have many friends here and as you can see today the fan base is amazing. All the memorabilia people have brought for me to sign is bringing back a lot of memories."

For someone who retired from racing cars nearly 30 years ago, the legendary driver Mario Andretti still lives in the fast lane.

The 77-year-old Italian-born Andretti was at Queens Tire in Acton to promote Firestone tires this week and his popularity was demonstrated by the long line of autograph-seekers winding its way down the sidewalk for nearly three hours.

The only driver to have won the Indianapolis 500, Daytona 500 and Formula One World Championship has created a vast empire of business interests to go along with strong family ties in the sport of auto racing.

The Pennsylvania resident makes numerous speaking engagements, owns gas stations, go-kart



Eamonn Maher/Metroland

Racing legend Mario Andretti made an appearance in Acton this week at Queens Tire, posing for a photo here with owner Frank Grassa and his sons Frankie and Vito.

PW  
PROVEN  
WINNERS

SAVE  
20% off\*  
\*Regular retail price.

## All Proven Winners® Shrubs, Evergreens, Fruit, Roses & Trees

The best of the best plant varieties that are vigorous, healthy, vibrant and unique.  
No. 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 Pots. Selection varies by store.



Pinky Winky® Hydrangea



Summer Wine® Ninebark



Fine Wine® Weigela



Yezberry™ Maxie™ Honeyberry



Door Crasher Pricing!

Your choice 11.98 each  
No. 1 pot, reg. \$21.99 each

Happy Face® Yellow Bush Potentilla Happy Face® White Bush Potentilla



Sheridan  
Nurseries  
100+ YEARS

## Sheridan Nurseries

12266 Tenth Line | 905-873-7547

