

# Bands that rock the cradle

## Tickets available for Michael Papaioannou fundraiser

SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

Sales have been brisk but tickets are still available for the upcoming Benefit Concert and Fundraiser for Michael Papaioannou. At a year of age, Michael has been diagnosed with Lesch-Nyhan Disease (LND), a disease so rare that it occurs once in every twenty million people worldwide. Michael is the youngest patient ever diagnosed with LND and it is not known at this point of time how severe his symptoms will become.

A research facility related to Lesch-Nyhan has been established in San Diego and it is the hope of Peter and Melissa Papaioannou,

Michael's parents, to take Michael as often as possible to the facility to participate in research that may lead to a cure for LND.

Local businesses and volunteers have opened their hearts to the youngster's plight, with a Benefit Concert and Fundraiser planned for Saturday, February 19. The event will take place in the Gambrel Barn at Country Heritage Park on Tremaine Road in Milton, one of the region's most popular locations for weddings. Country Heritage Park General Manager Reg Cressman was quick to volunteer the Gambrel Barn for the night and will also be volunteering his time, along with several of his staff members, for the evening. "How could we not help?" said Reg when asked for his support. "Especially when it's for a sick child."

Local caterer Allison Vaux, owner of Allison's of Milton, has taken on the heady task of managing the food for the buffet that evening. "I'm a mother too, and my heart just went out to Peter and Melissa," explains Allison, adding that just researching the disease on the internet (www.lndinfo.com) left her and her

office manager Debbie in tears. "It puts everything in perspective and makes you thank God for what you have. You wouldn't ever want to see your own child go through this."

Entertainment for the evening has been donated by local musicians, offering a wide variety of music. Kelly MacIntyre, with her talented easy listening style will be joined throughout the evening by a Frank Sinatra Tribute Band, country singer Alysha, and rock bands LTD and the Caroline Wiles Band. Sound management has been donated for the evening by Greg Parsons. Jeff Lumby,


former Y95 host and currently starring on the *Red Green Show* will act as master of ceremonies for the evening. "Something for everyone with terrific music and an MC who is one of the funniest people that I know," says event organizer Donna Danielli, who is absolutely amazed at the generosity of everyone involved. "We have had a large number of calls, from people and businesses donating prizes for the silent and live auctions, or the food necessary to create the buffet, or by making a cash donation. It has truly been heart warming to see the response from the community."

Donations have come in many sizes with including huge support for the event from Country Heritage Park and the Halton Compass. Campbellville's Stonegate Properties was one of the first to sign on as a gold sponsor of the event with a cheque for \$1,500, but equally touching to Donna was the elderly woman from Rockwood who pressed a \$20 bill into her hand. "She doesn't have a great deal, she's a senior on a pension and yet it was very important to her to help this little boy," says the grateful event coordinator.



For information on the event or to purchase tickets at \$40 per person, please contact Donna Danielli at 905-854-2469. "I have two main goals for the evening," explains Donna. "Obviously we'd like to raise money to help Michael and his parents, that's our main goal. But I would also like to put on a fun evening, for everyone to walk away after the event saying, that was great, I really had fun. If we can do those two things, that would be wonderful."

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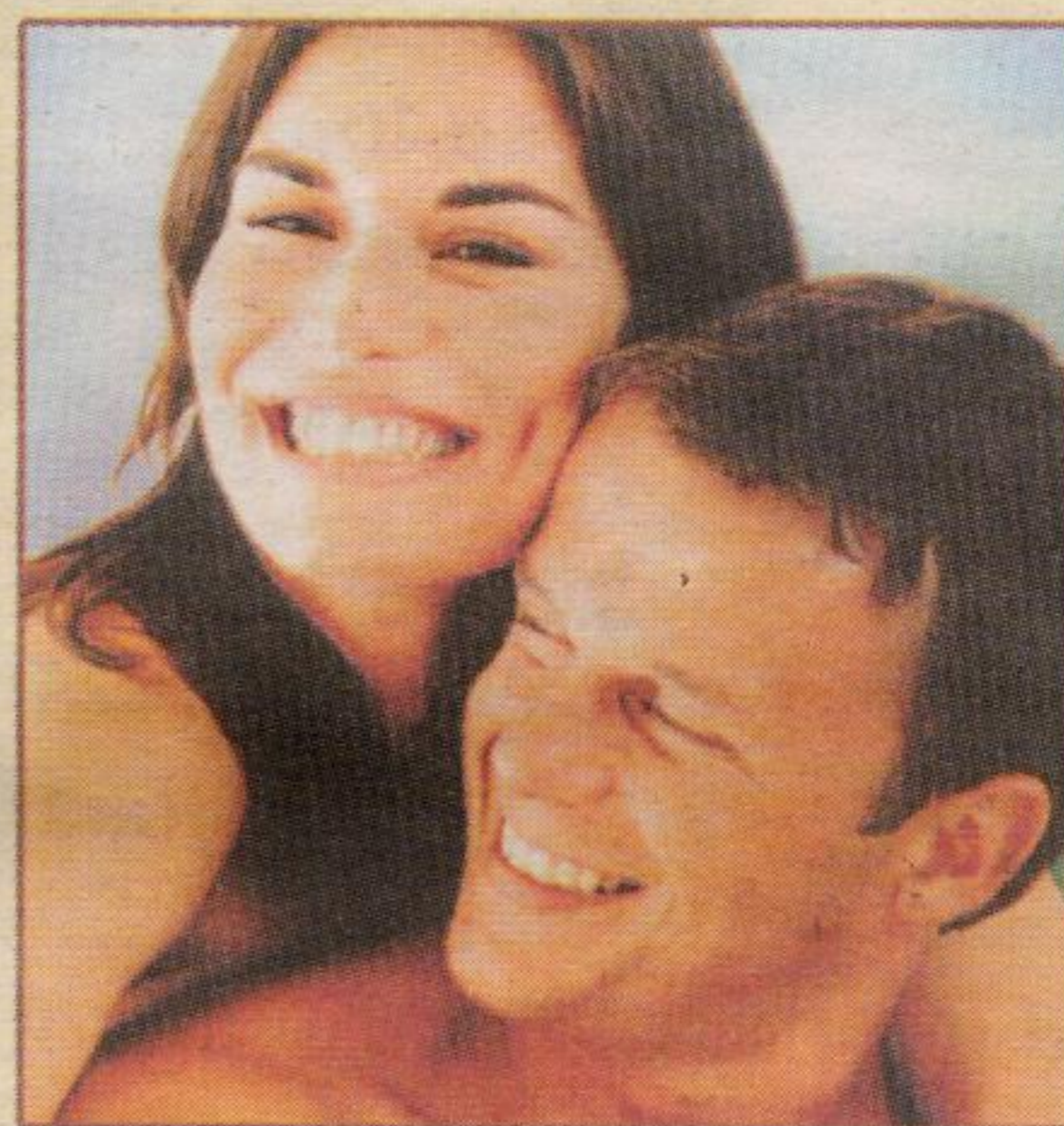
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