

Milton woman helps grieving man's dream come true

By Julie Slack
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A Milton woman helped make a complete stranger's dream come true last month after she learned his father died in a tragic crash.

Michelle Mangotich said she never posts on kijiji.ca, but this one time put up a listing selling front-row Toronto Maple Leaf tickets owned by American Iron and Metal (AIM). Mangotich's husband Stephen operates the Hamilton division.

Meanwhile, Kevin Turino of Brampton was searching the online classified site to try to surprise his best friend, Stephen Knowles, also of Brampton, with dream tickets to his favourite match-up between the Leafs and the Detroit Red Wings.

Turino was hoping to cheer him up after his father, Stan Knowles, died in a six-vehicle crash in Brampton September 16.

The death came just weeks before Stephen's wedding. In fact, Stan was driving home from a weekend of golf with his son and other family friends, Turino included, celebrating the upcoming wedding, when the collision occurred.

Mangotich was advertising the tickets Turino was seeking, to the September 28 pre-season



Enjoying the Toronto Maple Leafs game September 28 are Stephen Knowles (right), his wife Lisa and her daughter Mateah, and Kevin Turino (left).

game, so he contacted her. When Mangotich heard the sad story, she said she immediately wanted to do something to help bring happiness to a man who "sounded like a decent guy suffering significant emotional pain."

Unfortunately however, she no longer had the tickets. After five days online, the seats didn't sell, so she gave them to AIM client Paul Blanchard of Mississauga.

Not one to let a hurdle get in her way, Man-

gotich contacted Blanchard and told him Stephen's story.

Without hesitation, Mangotich said, he immediately offered up the tickets.

But that's not all. Mangotich got in touch with her contacts to put together a few extras such as snacks and drinks during the game, as well as a bag of Leafs' items including an autographed jersey of Stephen's favourite player, Deon Phaneuf, and an autographed James

Reimer jersey.

The Leafs organization also donated a suite, where Stephen was surprised by his fiancé (now wife) Lisa, her daughter Mateah and her father Ted, who decided to join them and secretly bought tickets to the same game.

It was a night Stephen said he will never forget. "It was an experience in itself to be in perfect seats for a Maple Leafs/Red Wings game," Stephen said. "I have not been to many Leafs games at the Air Canada Centre. My dad and I went often when the Gardens was their home. And every Leaf game I've ever been to was with my father," who he said has been a huge Leaf fan since first coming to Canada to visit in 1967.

"It was absolutely amazing, their generosity and kind hearts," he said.

"You only hear these stories for children with illnesses... and here's me a 32-year-old healthy man who lost his father tragically."

Mangotich, who's never met Turino or Stephen, said she hopes the story will inspire others to carry out acts of kindness. "I encourage people to pay it forward... our small town could certainly use some inspiration."

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SPARTAN SPECTATOR

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Craig Kielburger Secondary School, the second year after the grand opening, kicked off with some great changes. New this year is the CKSS junior football team, which started off with lots of support and a great turnout from the rest of the student population; the Spartans won their first game against Aldershot winning 49 to 7.

Fall has also been busy for the rest of the students at CKSS, with the Youth in Action trip to WE Day in Toronto, as well as the auditions for the Junior Show. This year, the grade nines and tens will be acting out an abridged version of Shakespeare's Macbeth premiering on Friday, October 25. Also, the student led group Global Action Peers had their first meeting, which was met with interest and enthusiasm. They also showed off the completion of their first project: a self sustaining, fully functioning aquaponics

Craig Kielburger Secondary School

system.

Student success has always been important at CKSS, and this year is no exception; the concert band had their first performance at the Academic Awards Night on October 17th where over one hundred students received honours and awards for the 2012-2013 school year. Now, as October draws to an end, the CKSS Student Activities Council has started planning the annual Halloween dance, which will be held on Wednesday October 30th and will feature a Haunted Hallway built by the students.

The beginning of every school year is filled with the excitement of those just starting high school and those returning, maybe for the final time. The changing colours of the fall season invoke feelings of freshness, anticipation, and - to be honest - some anxiety at the start of a new semester. Fall has marked what promises to be a busy and interesting year bringing with it new challenges and successes for the students of Craig Kielburger Secondary School.



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