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People

Christmas comes early for Stouffville girl

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Correspondent

Sometimes dreams do come true, as 10-year-old Dale Marie Arnold discovered Saturday night.

It was her mother, Jan, who played fairy godmother to the diehard Billy Ray Cyrus fan. "Everybody wants their kid's

dreams to come true, but I'm a single mom and it's more difficult when you have to do it on your own," Jan told *The Tribune* Monday morning.

"Last year I took my daughter to see Billy Ray as a surprise Christmas gift. As soon as tickets went on sale this year I bought them, but didn't

tell her."

One morning, Dale Marie woke up and told her mother she had dreamed they attended the concert and met Cyrus backstage afterwards. It was then that Jan decided she would try and match her daughter's dream.

She won't reveal how she did it. ("I told Dale Marie it was part of the mystery of Christmas") but on Saturday evening, she and a friend took her daughter to the city for what they called "a ladies' night out."

During dinner, Jan managed to slip the concert tickets by Dale Marie's plate while she was away from the table. "When she came back and opened the envelope she just went crazy, but I still didn't tell her about the backstage passes."

It wasn't until just before the concert that Jan showed her daughter the passes. "She screamed with excitement and

I cried just to see how thrilled she was that her dream had come true."

After a "fabulous" concert, the singer gave away the Blue Jays shirt he was wearing so that it could be raffled off to raise money for sick children, said Jan. Later, Dale Marie and her mother joined other backstage visitors, many of them children in wheelchairs, to meet their hero.

Dale Marie chatted with Cyrus while her mother took a roll of film to commemorate an unforgettable evening. "Yesterday my daughter re-wrote her school speech and she did it on Billy Ray," said Jan.

Sunday night, Jan pulled back the sheets on her bed and found "a whole bunch of change" together with a note from her daughter, thanking her for all she had done. And that, she concluded happily, was the best Christmas present anyone could ask for.



Photos: JAN ARNOLD

At left, Dale Marie Arnold and her mom Jan were treated to a backstage tour at the Billy Ray Cyrus concert this past weekend, where they met their idol after the show at SkyDome. Above, it was an early Christmas for Dale Marie when her mom presented her with tickets at a dinner in Toronto Saturday before the concert.



MP Bhaduria vows to be accessible to riding

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al frugality. He cited an unbearable tax load as the main concern expressed by citizens he encountered during the election campaign, and wants to show he was listening. "I drove to Ottawa all three times I've been since the election. I



BHADURIA

could have flown at government expense at \$290 return, and stayed at a hotel for \$90 a night, but I paid the \$40 in gas, stayed at a friend's house, and bought my own lunches

and dinners. "I'm a middle class working man with three kids. I too have trouble paying my taxes, and I pinch pennies wherever I can. I will be proposing a five per cent cut back in every government department, even MPs'

salaries."

Bhaduria said he was going to Ottawa to work, and was looking to be on as many Parliamentary committees as possible. He would like to see Parliament reconvened by the end of the year, though he has been told that the House probably won't sit until sometime in January. "There's work to be done, and I want to get to it," he said. "I don't plan to be a quiet back bencher. There are about 50 MP's who will be getting involved in things and I intend to be one of them. They'll soon start saying that I'm too pushy, but I've heard that before."

Bhaduria echoed the Liberal Party's commitment to job creation, saying he would push to have new employment opportunities in his riding. "I would like to see a couple of thousand jobs open up in Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville."

An immediate priority for Bhaduria, who does not speak

French, will be to take French lessons on a one to one basis for four to five hours daily. "This is my commitment. I will be fighting the Bloc Quebecois tooth and nail, and I will need to be able to speak French to do that. And when Parliament isn't sitting, I'll be moving across the country, and I'll need to speak French to do that too."

Bhaduria, who said he would shelve his management consulting business now that he's an MP, said he hoped his record would come to speak for itself in terms of a possible future Cabinet appointment. "I'll be there to serve my riding and work on committees my first term in office. A Cabinet position is earned. I think my colleagues will look at my committee and riding work. I wouldn't push my name for a Cabinet position, but if someone else did, that would be up to them."

Bhaduria said while he would work towards making his mark

in government, he didn't see it as a life long career.

"I certainly don't want to die in office." The first time MP said he is no stranger to the capital. He has done business there for over two decades, and has succeeded in establishing contacts with several key Liberal Party officials, including party strategist Keith Davey.

Bhaduria has consulted with Attewell, who he said had been helpful and accommodating. Bhaduria said he may end up taking over Attewell's con-

stituency office, located near Hwy. 7 and Kennedy Rd.

Bhaduria, along with his wife Pushpa, was to attend a day long administrative orientation session on Parliament Hill Tuesday (Nov. 9). He plans to take up residence in Ottawa by month's end.

Until then, he will be continuing to make the drive back and forth in his 1984 Chrysler New Yorker while familiarizing himself with his new job. "It has been hectic, but I love a challenge," Bhaduria said.

Reports costing thousands

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purchase.

Shortly after, through recommendations from its planning staff, council banned 'office buildings' on industrial extractive lands, leaving the group with a virtually 'useless' investment, a source maintains.

Leaving no alternative, the group joined forces with St. Mary's Cement Corporation/Canadian Building Materials to start up the only viable, permitted use left on the property — batching.

In June 1990 the group learned that no building permit was necessary under the Ontario Building Code to begin a batching operation since it involved equipment and machinery, but no construction. By mid July the plant was underway. On July 11, 1990, however, after sending two inaccurate stop work orders to the wrong owner, the town ordered the site shut down because no building permit was obtained, a source said. On July 26, 1990, the town's building department then laid three charges under the Building Code Act, but failed to appear in court. The town again laid the same three charges shortly after, but the judge threw those out of court because they had taken too long to come to trial, documents show.

During this time, the investors' group attempted to work with the town and presented officials with a 'compromise' during an in-camera meeting on March 3, 1992, sources say.

During the meeting, the group proposed 12

assurances, including offers to upgrade and update the town's deteriorating water system, if the town repealed its bylaw.

The town told the group it would consider the proposals and get back to them. It never did, sources say. After several further attempts to stop the operation, the town filed an application with the Court of Justice in September 1992 on grounds, once again, that the operators began work without a building permit. The town lost, leaving a trail of legal bills and consultant fees behind.

Last week, Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice pointed to one of many Borden & Elliot invoices (the town's legal counsel) for \$1,300, claiming the bills were mounting out of control and listed no details. In fact, the town will likely pay about \$30,000 to its lawyer to fight the battle, estimates indicate.

Ken Sandiford said this week the town's loss is "sweet victory" to him and his former business associates, although they feel badly for taxpayers who are forced to foot the bill.

"We tried in the best interest and in the best of faith to work with the town but the whole thing was treated so badly," Sandiford said.

Sandiford said the taxpayers will see a lot more bills piled up "when the smoke clears."

Stouffville politicians will likely decide whether to appeal the judge's Nov. 2 decision at an upcoming in-camera session.



Photo: LORI EMMERSON

Child find comes to town

Volunteer Jane Jemmett fingerprints Owen Castleton while mom Suzanne looks on at the Child Find booth at Uptown Kids Saturday.

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