

Women

WHO WORK AT HOME

A spotlight on female entrepreneurs



Maria Ramjallacksingh and her children Juliano (top right), Natalia (front right) and Alessia with one of Maria's cake creations.

By Kinjal Dagli Shah

Maria Ramjallacksingh was looking for a hobby after she had her first child six years ago. Ironically, it was at the end of maternity leave when she was going back to work. She'd grown up around a baking mom and had been an avid baker herself.

"I loved baking but hadn't done anything fancy like fondant. So I enrolled for two courses at Michaels -

they were inexpensive and only for four weeks so it helped. I made a cake for a birthday in the family and it escalated from there. My cousin wanted me to make one and that was my first official cake order. I posted a picture on Facebook and random people commented and liked it. The orders started coming in," said Maria, now the proud owner of Sugar Mammias Cake Design.

The Stouffville resident

also has a regular job - she works as a manager at Costco and puts in more than 50 hours a week. Her after hours are spent working on orders in her basement where she has a baking studio set up with her supplies. "I don't get much sleep; five or six hours are pretty good. But I don't take more than one order a week so it doesn't get overwhelming," said Maria, in between a yawn or two.

For the 39-year-old mother of three, baking is a go-to stress buster. "It takes my mind off work and other things. I enjoy it and my children get involved too. My oldest son, Juliano, is my taste tester when it comes to frosting. He loves pouring in the batter and helping out when I bake. My daughter Natalia is three-and-a-half and loves to roll out the fondant."

Basement Baking Business The Icing on the Cake for Mom of Three



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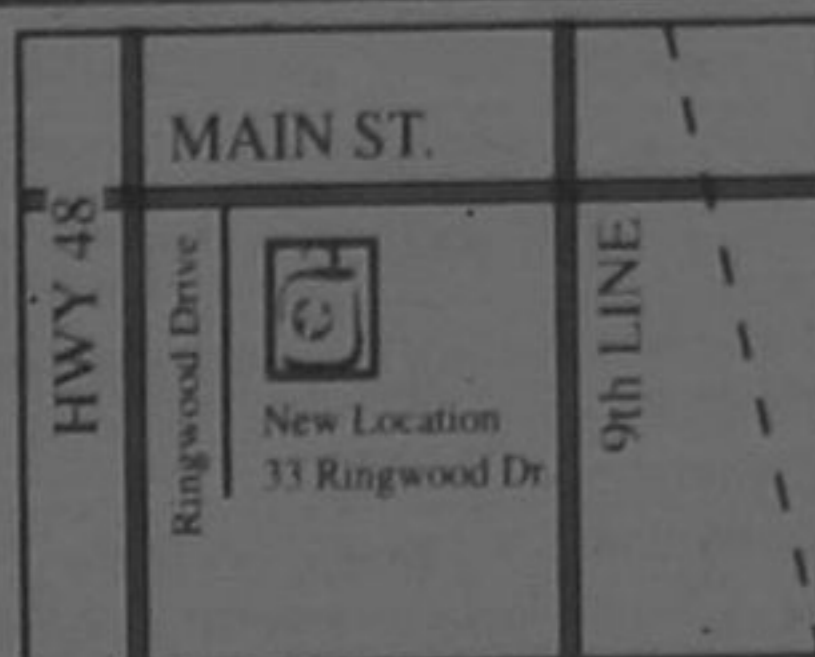
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Ramblin' Ruth



On Being Mindless

By Ruth LeBlanc
Stouffville Free Press

The mind is a powerful tool. Used incorrectly and it is anyone's guess what the results might be.

Who hasn't made the wrong decision based on what our mind has told us to do? Yes, it has a 'mind' of its own at times. Worse than the mind alone is a mind that is impulsive. This combination of impulse with mind has resulted in numerous bad decisions that are often featured as headline stories on the news.

I will raise the first hand and admit to being mindless along with the best of them. After suffering for years from impulsive and regretful decisions, it has occurred to me that had I listened to that inner voice of reason I could have spared myself a lot of grief.

In direct contrast to what I write I did my last stupid mindless thing, or at least until the next time, very recently. Looking at kijiji ads I happened upon a site featuring puppies. Keep in mind I have old Hankie nearly seventeen and toothless. Nearly blind with his tongue hanging out he now gets lost going out to relieve himself. Younger and peppier is Sparky, a youthful 6 who keeps me on my toes and is a friend for Hankie.

Sitting playing on the computer a couple of weekends ago I spotted a picture of a puppy just 8 weeks old. Totally ignoring the fact that there are already two dogs and two cats, all common sense flew out the window. That little voice was now yelling out "don't do it", as my mind was exploding from trying to get my attention,

which was totally ignored. Once again hindsight tells me that I am a mindless fool as I pick up shredded rolls of toilet tissue. Sandals have been chewed and now placed on high shelves. Food bowls are overturned and my arms have become chew toys.

My little voice is now saying things that can't be printed. This was a combination of impulsive meets mindless and I plan to be more in tune with my common sense, or at least what little I have.

Now please excuse me as I just saw my new purse being pulled down the hall by the puppy from hell named Kash. Both my mind and little voice tells me no more pets and this time I am listening.



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