

Event seeks to INSPIRE

RITA DeMONTIS
Toronto Sun

'We're here to encourage and empower our Canadian teens and young adults'

Take a core group of powerful community role models, blend vigorously with an enthusiastic crowd of young people and you have the perfect recipe for INSPIRE, 2012 — a non-profit organization that believes today's youth are tomorrow's future leaders.

"We're here to encourage and empower our Canadian teens and young adults, and let them know we believe in them, and believe they are capable of leading us into the future," says Luciano Volpe, founder and chair of INSPIRE, 2012. "We've been doing this throughout the year through a variety of fronts, namely working with student leaders and organizing speaking engagements at various university campuses throughout southern Ontario.

And it's culminating in a astonishing event taking place next Sunday, June 17 at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Vaughan, where well-known

names will be sharing their own personal stories and offering advice on how to really go after your goals and aspirations, adds Volpe.

This year's speakers include famed singer/songwriter and Our Lady Peace frontman Raine Maida, acclaimed vascular and endovascular surgeon Dr. Jonathan Cardella, dynamic crime reporter and court specialist Sue Scambati of CP24 and president and CEO of Bridgepoint Group Ltd., Frank Carnevale — who received the 2011 "Next Generation Award" for business excellence from the Italian Chamber of Commerce of Ontario.

The event will be emceed by *ET Canada* host Rick Campanelli, who was a keynote speaker last year. And sponsors in this year's event will be on hand to offer internship opportunities, plus two of the sponsors

will be offering coveted education bursaries for those who qualify.

"It's exciting, fun — and it's free to those who register," says Volpe, who has teamed up with a well-seasoned group of like-minded young professionals who share the same enthusiasm for the message. People like Lawrence la Pianta whose company finds and secures

locations for both feature and commercial film projects, Rob Grossi of Cooler Solutions, a Toronto-based design innovation company, Gianni Creta who serves as v-p of Globalive Communications, a telecommunications company with brands like YAK and WIND Mobile, and Rino

Spano, co-founder of Carino, a digital public relations and marketing firm with a stellar roster of clients.

Even the advisory board is made up of powerful spokespeople including the aforementioned Campanelli, Canadian actor Enrico Colantoni and Alex Rechichi, president of the award-winning Extreme Brandz food company.

"It should be everyone's responsibility to LIVE, LEARN and TEACH so that generations to follow become more conscious," says Colantoni, a writer and director who stars in the hit series *Flashpoint*.

"Inspire, is what it says it is — we inspire, by introducing young adults to people who have pursued their dreams with success, helping them believe in themselves and in the pursuit and manifestation of their own dreams."

"Seeing the glimmer of

hope in the eyes of all those who dream is why I give my time and effort to this organization," adds Rino Spano. "I was once there in my life and only would have dreamed of such a platform during my time."

The half-day event promises to be one of the most sought-after networking experiences for those looking to connect with what the future holds for them — to, meet and interact with famous Canadians as they share their personal stories on how they achieved success in their respective fields.

"We believe passionately in the power of leadership to change attitudes, lives and ultimately, the world," says Luciano.

And it's free! All you have to do is register at inspiretoronto.com.

Trust me, you'll find the event inspiring. And it may just help you find your place in the future.

rita.demontis@sunmedia.ca



Dad screaming with joy ... priceless

SANDY CAETANO
Special to QMI Agency

Instead of giving dad a tie, a case of beer or another tool that will sit in the garage collecting dust, think outside the box and give your dad an experience he'll enjoy for Father's Day.

Whether he's the adventurous type who will jump out of a plane or the relaxing kind who prefers to spend quality time with the family at the cottage, giving your dad an experience he can look back on is sometimes the best type of gift. And dads who are open minded stand the chance to have a Father's Day they will never forget.

Send your father on a helicopter tour over the city, give him a shot behind an Air Combat Zone Flight Simulator, arrange for him to drive a Formula 101 race car, plan a romantic getaway to the Fairmont Winnipeg Hotel for him and mom, or arrange a dinner bistro for two, where a chef will come over and cook a gourmet meal in his own kitchen.

"Fathers don't necessarily need another tie or T-shirt ... give him an experience," says Mur-

Whether its rafting or flying, the memories will last longer than socks

ray Milthorpe, CEO of lifeexperiences.ca, which offers experience gift cards across Canada. "We put fun back into gift-giving, we provide consumers with unique experiential gifts that create ever-lasting memories."

Arrange for your dad to relive the old days by enabling him to get behind the wheel of a 1966 Mustang convertible for three days, courtesy of Affinity Luxury Car Rentals in Toronto.

LifeExperiences offers 800 types of experiences from a paintball park, a golf course, rock climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking and more.

The Great Canadian Adventure Company in Edmonton also offers gift cards to tours and adventure

experiences. With a gift certificate to a specific place, dad can choose whichever activities he wants and create a tailored adventure. Another unique gift idea is white water rafting. Imagine the thrill of riding the rapids in the Canadian Rockies — what adventure seeking dad wouldn't love that?

"There's usually a bit of trepidation on what to expect — can I do this? Will I be able to pull off my share of the paddling? Will I actually like it?," says Linda Irvine, co-owner of Kootenay River Runners. "Then you settle into the boat, gain immediate confidence in the guide, and notice that others in the boat are probably feeling as nervous as you are.

"By the time you've hit the first rapid ... you're ready for it and start screaming for more," she continues. "With something like this, you're not giving a static gift in a box, you're giving an experience that a father can share with his family, out in nature, a gift that lives on with the memories. That's what it's about."

For more visit lifeexperiences.ca, raftingtherockies.com or adventures.com.



PHOTO COURTESY KOOTENAY RIVER RUNNERS

Think outside the box for Father's Day this year and give him an adventure-filled afternoon on the river.