

Contact:
Diane Humeniuk
Community Engagement &
Funding
bfoyr_info@bellnet.ca

17070 Yonge Street, Suite 203
2nd floor, Newmarket, ON., L3Y 8Z4
Phone: 905-898-6265
Fax: 905-898-5870
1-800-969-6904
www.bfoyr.com



**Bereaved Families
York Region**

Media Release

Play in a band?—\$5,000 in prizes will be won at the 2012 Battling Bands in support of youth programs by Bereaved Families ~ York Region

Newmarket, ON, December 9th, 2011: Bereaved Families ~ York Region is hosting the third 2012 Battling Bands challenge on Saturday, February 4th, 2012 at the Markham Theatre for Performing Arts. Bands must register for the challenge over the month of December and forms are available on-line at www.bfoyr.com. Bands are critiqued by a Committee and up to eight bands will be selected to enter the challenge. Funds raised at the event support youth bereavement programs such as the “*Missing Pieces Youth Workshop*” and on-line support aimed at high school students who are grieving the death of a loved one.

This year, Paul Carroll of Private Records Studio is not only a competition Judge, but is also leading the musical side of the event, combining his expertise and mentoring through an encouraging and empowering environment. Producer, Engineer, Musician, Singer and Songwriter, Paul’s unique and diverse background is evident in the passion he will bring to the 2012 Battling Bands competition.

Through Paul’s 20 years of engineering expertise in everything from musicianship to technical know-how, he will provide his leadership to assist the selected competing bands. His recommendations will make the difference to the artists in standing out as a result of the mentoring and coaching session for each of the Bands which will be hosted in January, 2012.

Paul has an interesting background and has worked with top artists from Los Angeles to Grammy winning music scores and he is recognized as a leader in pushing the boundaries and creating breakthroughs in sound and technique.

Born in Ireland, Paul moved to Saskatoon at the age of nine and by the completion of high school, he was adept at playing nineteen instruments. At age 15 he was on the road and traveled with numerous bands across Canada and in the next 5 years, had played more than 800 venues. During this period Paul also did a stint in Los Angeles as a session musician. At age 20 Paul dedicated his service to work in Guyana in community development and literacy training. Following this, he returned to Canada to complete his University education.

True to his passion, Paul continued in the music industry and after university he was audio master controller for CBC Yellowknife and ran a recording studio. He went on to explore diverse projects such as producer, contributing composer, engineer and performer in “*The Passion of the Christ*” score, which earned the movie an Oscar nomination. Other ventures included the 2002 Gemini and Genie Award show, feature films both domestic and international, short-films and television themes. In 2004, Paul performed as a drummer at the Juno’s after touring with Canadian singer and songwriter, Bill Bourne, triple Juno Winner and eleven-time nominee.

Paul continues working with rock bands to pop opera in the capacity of engineer and producer and has spent a lifetime learning his craft. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge to create works of excellence and because of this commitment; Paul will be leading a one-on-one 2012 Battling Bands Mentoring Workshop which will provide a valuable complimentary learning session for each of the 2012 competing bands.



Returning to the 2012 Battling Bands Competition, veteran Judges Joanne Wilder, weekday host and Al Joynes, weekend host for Q107 FM Classic Rock. will once again join the competition, each bringing a wealth of musical and industry experience to their important role as the 2012 Battling Bands official Judges and they will be joined by Paul Carroll.

The final outcome of the winning and runner up Bands will be determined by a combination of the votes by the Judges and the fans in the theatre audience. The more votes that are cast, the better your favourite Bands chance is to win the grand prize. The prize package is \$5,000 which consists of a \$1,000 first prize cheque and \$4,000 in professional recording studio packages provided by Private Records Studio Inc. Tickets are only \$15 for four hours of great music and in support of Bereaved Families ~ York Region youth programs including "Missing Pieces".

2012 Battling Bands Tickets are available at:
Long & McQuade Music ~ 9833 Highway 48, Markham
BFOYR ~ 17070 Yonge Street, Suite #203, Newmarket, ON, L3Y 8X4
BFOYR Online ~ Diane Humeniuk – bfoyr_info@bellnet.ca
Telephone ~ 905-898-6265 www.bfoyr.com

It is important to remember that teenage years are extremely challenging and many teens require bereavement education and support to cope after experiencing the death of a friend or family member. The Bereaved Families ~ York Region is a registered not-for-profit charity providing programs and services for those grieving the death of a loved one.

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Registration & Information – www.bfoyr.com