

Vendor Spotlight: Andrea's Jewelry Design

By Laura Kirkpatrick

Andrea Budd grew up with a love for crafting. As a child, she would explore her property, collecting stones, sparkly rocks and gems while other children played with dolls. It made sense to her considering her entire family had a



crafting history. Her grandfather, mother and father all created beautiful pieces of art with their hands and Andrea wanted to be just like them.

When she was 17 years old, she decided she wanted to attend Art School. Her dad didn't agree with her choice, but after her mom fought for her, he changed his mind (as long as



she took business courses, too). Andrea went on to major in Art at Humber College. "To this day, I did the right thing," she said. "I love what I do."

Andrea's Jewelry Design started about 30 years ago after her friends kept telling her to sell her amazing pieces of jewelry she'd been making them for years. Since then, Andrea has never looked back. "I could be in the studio for eight hours a day and it doesn't feel like work. If you love something so much, it's not a job."

Andrea is open every day the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market is open and sells a variety of elegant pieces of jewelry. She sells handmade 925 Italian silver and 14K gold necklaces and earrings, using Swarovski crystals and nickel-free parts. Hairclips, made by her daughter, are also sold at her table. "It's magical, as a mother, to have a child follow you in your footsteps," said Andrea. "I now know how my mom felt when I took after her."



Her mother, a pianist, has always supported Andrea in her dream to be an artist and crafter. Because of this, Andrea asked her husband Robert to make her display table look



like a piano to always remember why she started crafting and how she got here.

While business is going well, Andrea faced a medical scare last year that took her away from the Market and doing what she loves.

"I lost 12 weeks of making jewelry. A lot of people prayed for me and that was wonderful," said Andrea.

Now, Andrea is back at the Market and is taking it one day at a time. "Everyone is so happy and supportive in the Market. When I was sick, they were there for me," she said.

"It's not just friendship, it's a second family."

Through it all, Andrea has remained strong with a huge smile on her face. Every customer who comes to her table is treated with generosity and positivity from a woman who has been through a negative experience. She never let it bring her down. Family, friends and jewelry kept her going.

“My favourite thing about this is doing what I love. Being able to work for myself and be a woman. To be able to, in this world, show that a girl can do it. I have tools, torches and drills and I can do anything.”

