

coreARTISTS AMONG US

Vab and Melissa Bawa – IT* Artists

(*Information Technology)

by jae brown

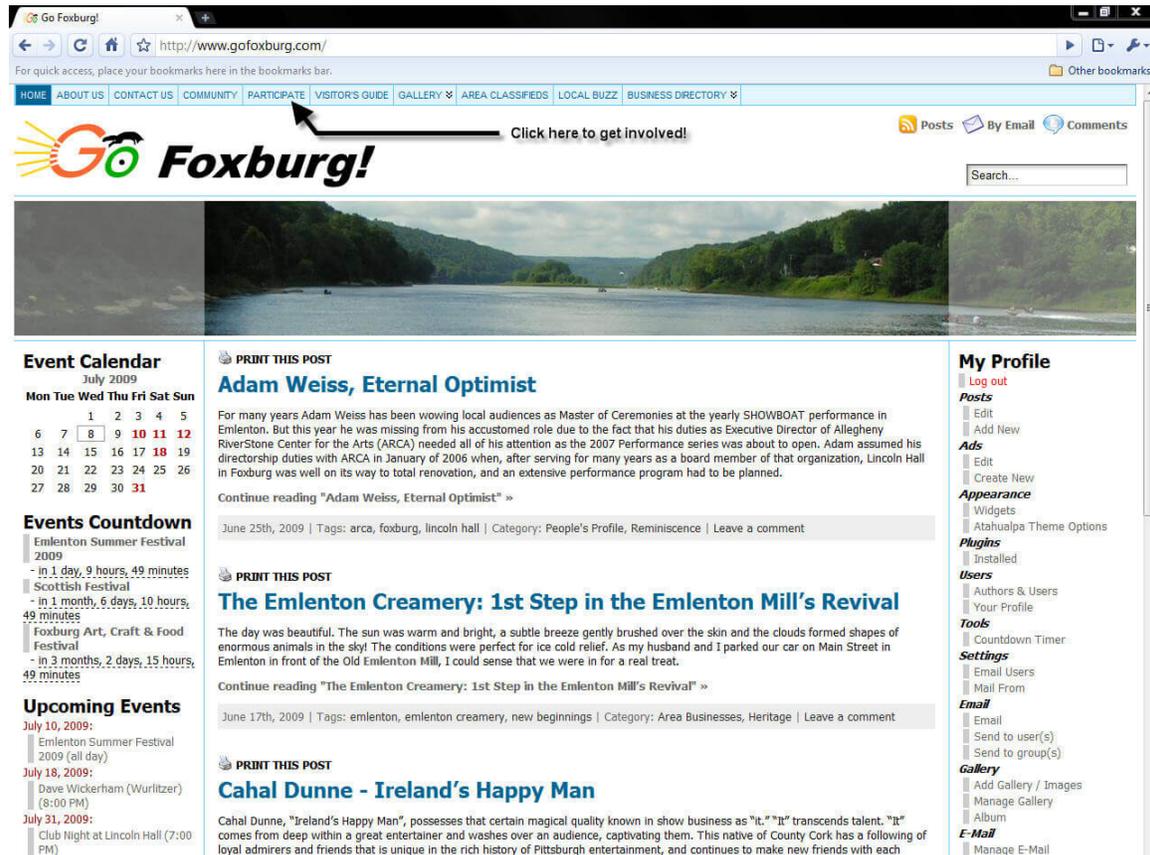


(Photo by Andor Jobb)

Vab and Melissa Bawa are in a unique position to understand the importance of knowing ‘what’s going on in their neighborhood’. As owners of Divani Chocolate Boutique in Foxburg this young couple found early on that many visitors to Foxburg were at a loss to know what to do whilst visiting the area. Since their shop serves vegetarian breakfasts every morning they were often consulted about local activities by tourists planning their time in our area. And even though most visitors had done some preliminary research on the web concerning the main tourist attractions at their destination, Vab and Melissa found that visitors had no real source of information regarding specific events on particular days.

Sensing the need for a community calendar they decided to build a web site to bring information about events in our area to the Internet – www.GoFoxburg.com. The main purpose of the website is to bridge the gap between visitors to Foxburg, as well as surrounding towns, and the people living and working in the area. A host of features are being presented in a creative and

humanizing manner to achieve this feat, such as - Events, Articles, Photo Gallery, Visitors Guide and Local Buzz. And for out-of-towners, it's simple-they can log on and find out about every happening the Allegheny Valley region has to offer!



The website is Search Engine optimized which means when people are searching for information about our area within Google, Yahoo, etc, the Go Foxburg! website would show up in results with any relevant information that it contains, making it highly accessible to a variety of audiences looking for something in the area.

Both Vab and Melissa are no strangers to the powers of the web. This Internet-oriented couple were early enthusiasts of the 'art of communication' presented by the, then, relatively new social platforms. Before the two had met, Vab had been working as an IT consultant for about a decade and was well aware of the potency the emerging technologies had to offer. Meanwhile, Melissa, being web-savvy, was responsible for responding to customer emails while working at Foxburg Wine Cellars. As they both, in their separate countries, became more aware of various new programs offered, they found themselves simultaneously registered in and communicating through an online dating service - Melissa living in Knox and Vab in Mississauga (a suburb of Toronto, Canada).

From the start, each found that the means to communicate with one another presented them with a 'safe' environment. "There was grace about the experience. We were both able to express ourselves freely, without pressures" recalls Melissa. After several weeks of communication, they decided to meet in person at Niagara Falls, Canada. They were pleased to meet one another in person and though they both suggested that there was no 'storybook magic', indeed a deep connection had emerged. The attraction proved to be undeniable; and as advised by an ancient

Chinese proverb, they waited six months from the day they met before 'tying the knot'. Now, through Go Foxburg! the couple has included a section in the Area Classifieds wherein area singles can find one another.

So for the Bawas, the Internet has been the source of much information and good fortune – who better to bring our area's events, aspirations and plans to a wider community?

Visit their website at www.GoFoxburg.com to see what is currently listed. To list your organization's events, simply register and follow the easy instructions you will receive in email. A free listing on Go Foxburg! will publicize your event, making many outside our local community aware of interesting and exciting activities going on locally. Choose the 'Participate' link at the top of the website to learn about the ways you can get involved. Several options are available including RSS or Email Feeds, spreading the word about Go Foxburg! among your family, friends and colleagues, registering as a Contributor to write articles or blogs and sending information about your events. You can also fan Go Foxburg! on Facebook and follow on Twitter at www.twitter.com/gofoxburg. So get excited, get involved and...Go Foxburg!