

# 'TRANSPORTS ME BACK TO WHEN I WAS A KID IN BOMBAY'

## CELEBRITY CHEF VIKRAM VIJ CREATED MENU FOR CANADA'S FIRST LOCATION IN EAST GWILLIMBURY

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Back when he was a kid growing up in Bombay, now called Mumbai, now-celebrity chef Vikram Vij had a deal with a street vendor.

Vij would devour frankies, Indian's No. 1 street food, and at the end of each month, when his mom, Kusum, gave him his pocket money, he would pay off his debt.

Now, Vij has created the menu for Bombay Frankies on Green Lane in East Gwillimbury just north of Newmarket, which became the first location in Canada when it opened its doors in October.

"This is my baby, from scratch," he said.

The celebrity chef, cookbook author, television personality and former investor on the Dragon's Den TV show trained as a chef in Austria before joining Alberta's Banff Springs Hotel as a line chef in 1989 and later opened restaurants in British Columbia.

A frankie is a hand-held flatbread called paratha, a soft, flat wrap made with buttermilk and an egg wash, almost like a thin French toast, which is filled with meat or vegetables and Indian spices and sauces.

Taking a bite "transports me back to when I



Steve Somerville/Metroland

Acclaimed chef Vikram Vij holds a slow-roasted pork Frankie with masala chips. He and Eat Up Canada have partnered to launch Bombay Frankies, a new fast casual dining concept inspired by the Frankie roll, which is very popular in Mumbai, India (formerly known as Bombay).

was a kid in Bombay ... and your friends could only afford to go and eat some-

thing on the side streets because we couldn't afford fancy restaurants because

### BOMBAY FRANKIES

**LOCATION:** 200 Green Lane, East Gwillimbury

**WEBSITE:** bombayfrankies.ca

**PHONE:** 905-954-1001

**HOURS:** Sunday to Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

we didn't have that kind of money," Vij said.

"No different than a kid going to a hot dog stand now and buying a \$2.50 hot dog or a Mexican kid going to buy tacos. We are going to glorify that cheaper version and make it a little different and approachable."

While Vij's dad, Manmohan, envisioned his son becoming a doctor, lawyer or engineer, Vij wanted to be an actor.

"I always thought as a kid I was going to be a show performer on a stage. Honestly, this (be-

ing a celebrity chef and now opening Bombay Frankies) is my stage and I'm performing," he said.

Now, Vij says his dad loves the profession he has chosen.

Vij is proud Bombay Frankies has opened in the Newmarket/East Gwillimbury community, with its rich diversity of cultures and access to locally grown foods.

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## BLUE DOOR GIVES DIGNITY WITH GIVINGTUESDAY CAMPAIGN



During the pandemic, Blue Door saw an influx of people who were experiencing homelessness, and often their situation left them feeling like there was no hope.

Blue Door has recently announced that it will be continuing its GivingTuesday

tradition of raising money to provide life-saving services and has set a goal to raise \$40,000 by November 29th.

With this year's GivingTuesday theme being 'Giving Dignity' Blue Door wants to provide hope and supports to those who feel as though their dignity was taken from them in their hard times. With funds raised this year, Blue Door will support vulnerable seniors, youth, families, and neighbours who continue to be pushed into poverty and homelessness. Those who donate to Blue Door's GivingTuesday campaign will be assisting in purchasing gifts of dignity, such as food, toiletries, clothing, and bedding, which are all necessities to breaking the cycle of poverty.

From November 15<sup>th</sup> to November 29<sup>th</sup> all donations to Blue Door's GivingTuesday Campaign will be matched, so that they can go to greater lengths in helping the community's most

vulnerable. Donations this year have been and will continue to be generously matched. Donations will be matched by generous sponsors including Wyse Meter Solutions, Cambria Design Build Ltd., Diner Agency, Crier Media and Walterhouse Realty Group.

Those who want to donate or are interested in learning more about Blue Door and GivingTuesday are encouraged to visit Blue Door's website (bluedoor.ca).

40 YEARS  
**BLUE DOOR**

[www.bluedoor.ca](http://www.bluedoor.ca)