

Women in Business

A-Cobourg - Business (03-73)



Violet Peiponen

Violet Peiponen took a summer job as a hairdresser 26 years ago.

She enjoyed it so much that she never became the public school teacher, nurse, or secretary she was expected to become. She worked in the shop and attended classes for three years until she passed her exams.

She started Violets Coiffure on King Street in Cobourg ten years ago to see if she could manage on her own.

"I'm a born fighter she says with a laugh. Although she enjoys the work she finds that it does not leave much spare time.

"I don't have as much

time with my children as I would like," she says. "I have worked three 12-hour days and then done the books at home. And there's always the housework to do."

Violet has two children, Anne who is 15, and Peter, 20.

Violet was born in Lahti, Finland and came to Cobourg in 1951. She was homesick when she first came to Canada but soon grew settled.

"Canadians are different, very friendly and helpful. When I returned to Finland I knew I couldn't go back." Violet has travelled across Canada

and through the United States.

She has found that there is more variety in hair styles today than ever before.

"Everything seems to be in style - from the very short to the very long and everything in between. Young girls try different styles while the older women ask for styles that will stay neat. The young are mainly concerned with how it looks today."

She advises girls interested in hairdressing to start young when they have the energy and strength. "It's hard work but I wouldn't want to do anything else," she said.