

Memories of yesteryear triggered at The Vintage Depot

By Mary Golem
GBTW Staff Writer

Remember the days of family sing songs while Grandma played the pump organ? Or using a foot warmer in the buggy on a cold winter morning?

Can you recall using a loom to weave a rug for the bedroom floor? Or when bread was baked in the oven of the woodstove even on the hottest of days?

If so, a visit to the Mahnke House and the Vintage Depot, just south of Elmwood, will no doubt trigger memories.

Last November, Dan Connell of The Vintage Depot, purchased the 1860s log house and had it moved from its original location near Hanover to the Elmwood site.

Connell, an expert when it comes to dismantling unwanted timber frame barns and century-old buildings and making new uses for them, his brother-in-law, Mike Black and artist/master weaver Jill Everest have been making the century-old home an attraction for not just tourists, but local folk as well.

"We want it to be a nice place for

people to stop and have a look around," Everest commented, as she walked through the house showing off a varied collection of antiques and artifacts, some of them for sale, and some on loan from private collections for exhibition purposes. Then, in a naturally bright room in the home's front corner is a collection of art, most of it of local landscapes done by artists Jeff Willmore and Pam Howard.

In the home's main room, a large textile factory loom is set up, enabling Jill to use pieces of old denim she has been given to make rag rugs for use on the original hardwood floors.

Outside, volunteer gardener Cathy Potts-Halpin has created beautiful flower beds; two willow chairs, the work of Diane Wilken of Hanover, sit on the front porch.

"Our children have no concept of what life was like years ago," Everest said, as she talked about the days of quilting, canning and blacksmithing. "Our hope is that people will drop in and see what we have... perhaps someone who remembers those days on the farm, but now lives in town, would like to come out here

and do some quilting, weaving or simply sit on the front porch, enjoy a cup of tea and toast and share stories with us. There's so much we can learn from those who have lived through those years..."

Many of the visitors to date have expressed an interest in restoring an old building they own and come to the Vintage Depot and the Mahnke House for ideas. "It's just a privilege to share the past with them," both Everest and Connell commented.

The Vintage Depot's motto "items with history... and a future" is most fitting. Material from the lumber yard has been used to add instant century appeal to new homes, as well as for flooring, wainscoting and landscaping.

"There's a character to old wood that can't be found just anywhere," Connell added.

About a month ago, a market was established at the site. Open Friday from 2 to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the market features home baking, fresh produce and for those interested, an opportunity for them to set up tables for garage sale items.

The Mahnke House is open every

day but Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. There is no admission charge.

"Just come and enjoy," Everest encourages.

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Jill Everest stands on the porch of the Mahnke House, welcoming visitors to the 1860s log house at The Vintage Depot near Elmwood.

GBTW Photo by Mary Golem

Obituaries

COLLINS, SHARON CHRISTINA MARIE

Sharon Christina Marie Collins (nee Stewart) of RR 5 Kincardine, tragically, on Saturday, October 16, 2004 at the age of 57.

Beloved wife of Ken Collins. Dear mother of Keira Collins and her husband Bill Georgiopoulos of Australia, and Kert Collins of Kincardine. Sadly missed by her mother Rylla. Loved sister of Bill Stewart and his wife Nancy, Sam Farrell, Paul Farrell, Connie Mrkobrada and

her husband Glenn Johnston, John Farrell and his wife Carol and Darlene and her husband Don Murray. Fondly remembered by her nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. Also survived by her mother-in-law Jean Collins and sister-in-law Barbara and her husband Glenn MacKenzie.

Predeceased by her son Kent, parents Mary and Eldon Stewart, and one sister Tricia.

Visitation was held from the Davey-Linklater Funeral Home, on Wednesday October 20, 2004. Funeral service was held at Kincardine United

Church on Thursday, October 21, 2004 at 1 p.m. with Pastor Judy Zarubick officiating. Interment Kincardine Cemetery.

Memorial donations to the Kincardine Hospital Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society (Bluewater Unit) or the Children's Wish Foundation were appreciated as expressions of sympathy.

Active Pallbearers were Baren Stewart, Tad Stewart, Nicki Mrkobrada, Matt Farrell, Clint Farrell and Jamie MacKenzie. Honorary Pallbearers Bob Bradley, Harry

Ferrier, George Dahmer, Alex Currie, Dennis Delany and Ray Watson. Active Flowerbearers were Alicia Buter, Jennifer Biesel, Angie Michael and Lynn Bradley. Honourary Flowerbearers were Gloria Ferrier, Helen Currie, Nancy Linklater, Juanita Watson, Hazel Wilson and Diana Lynn Gemmitti. Memories were

shared by Bob Bradley and RSM Lawrence Surridge. Baren Stewart sang Amazing Grace and Matt Farrell played guitar and sang. Kert Collins read the commendation.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Davey-Linklater Funeral Home, Kincardine.

