

Seasonal spice...

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...and everything nice

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COLBORNE — The spicy smells of Christmas baking fill the air at the Yum Yum Shop these days.

Vivian and Jack Wannell and staff are working all hours of the day and night preparing specialty cookie platters, Christmas cakes and puddings and the homemade ginger-

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

bread confections.

"We have a Noah's Ark this year, a Nativity Scene, two sizes of gingerbread houses and gingerbread men," Vivian notes.

In the past three years, the shop's gingerbread orders have grown by leaps and bounds.

"We have orders going out to Port Hope, Trenton, Cobourg and, of course this area," says Vivian.

The molasses dough whirs and whirs in the heavy-duty mixer to ensure the right consistency for rolling. Once rolled, each part of the three-dimensional gingerbread structures, and the gingerbread animals and figures, are individually cut and then baked.

Once cooled, the

houses Ark and Nativity creche items are carefully assembled, the pieces meshed with heavy sugar mixture.

The icing and decoration of the items takes a steady hand and lots of concentration. Laurie Grills, in between her nursing shifts in Oshawa, pops in the carefully trim the baked scenes with coloured icings.

"We can customize anything with names, too," says Vivian. "For another 10 cents, we will add a name to the gingerbread man. Many people like them as stocking stuffers or sweet guest gifts."

The shop also makes dozens and dozens of chocolate houses from Kit-Kat bars touched up with icing decoration.

"A lot of people like to use them for centrepieces on their tables," notes Vivian. "And we have one woman from Port Hope who gives them as gifts."

The Christmas goodies are equal-opportunity at the Yum Yum Shop.

"We make diabetic cakes. There's no sugar added, just the fruit like apricots dates and raisins make the cakes sweet," Vivian notes.

With three kitchen areas behind the coffee shop proper, it's not unusual to see Laurie, Jack and Vivian and other staff members busy creating their goodies in the separate preparation areas.

One day last week, Jack was preparing mini Christmas cakes and short bread cookies in one area, Laurie was decorating gingerbread houses in another and Vivian was assembling cookie and Christmas goody platters for a company Christmas reception in the third area.

The homemade bread and rolls are also in big demand for the family feasts.

The order lists are growing now that December is upon us.

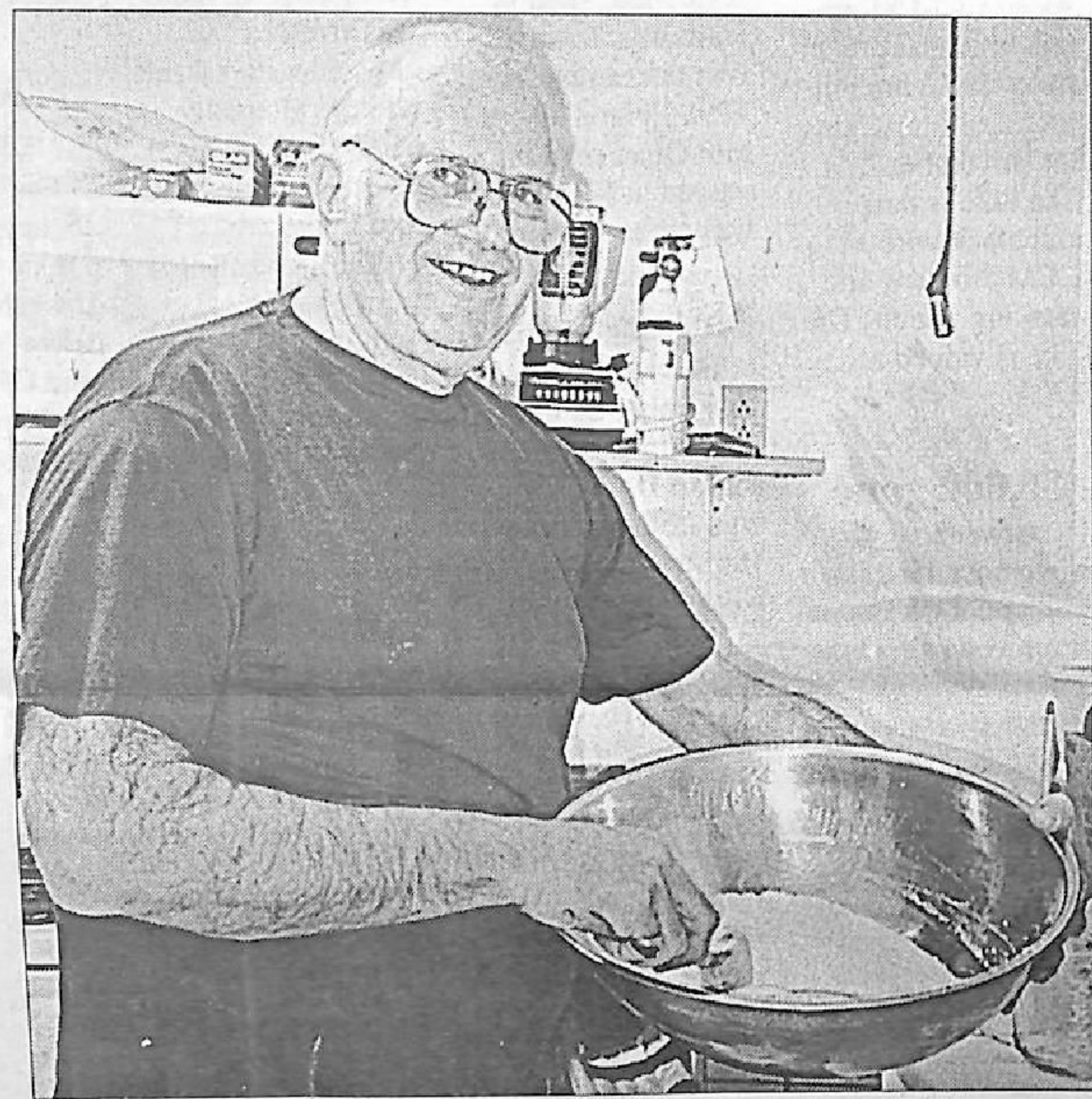
"It's a lot of work," Vivian admits of the bakery enterprise. "But, it's only once a year and it's also a lot of fun."



Laurie Grills of the Yum Yum Shop puts finishing touches on yet another gingerbread house at the Yum Yum Shop in Colborne.



A gingerbread Nativity scene, a small-sized gingerbread house, right, and a solid candy Kit-Kat house are just a few of the samples of Christmas goodies prepared by Vivian Wannell, husband Jack and staff at Colborne's Yum Yum Shop.



Jack Wannell prepares the fixings for another batch of Christmas cookies.

PHOTOS BY MANDY MARTIN