

Tastes every bit as good the third time around



The top entries in the 14 categories were arranged on a table at Warkworth Town Hall Centre for the Arts, to be displayed individually when the names of their bakers were announced. Photo: John Campbell



Marina Williamson kept busy serving slices of pie to visitors such as James Mandy, Lewington Hyatt and her son Paxton Pearson. Photo: John Campbell



The very first category announced was for fruit. Jacqueline Beamish presented the trophy, named after her mother, Mrs. R.M. Potter, to her daughter, Mary Jane Moffat, Peterborough, who baked a cherry pie. Photo: John Campbell



Castleton resident Cheryl Casselman, who has a new CD on the market, performed at the 35th annual Perfect Pie Contest November 1. Photo: John Campbell



John Hughes' apple pie won the Men's Open category, and was presented a plaque by Worthy Matron Pat McLellan of Warkworth Chapter No. 279 of the Order of the Eastern Star. Photo: John Campbell



Jacob McKenzie, eight, Warkworth, won the juniors category with an apple pie and received his plaque from Worthy Matron Pat McLellan of Warkworth Chapter No. 279 of the Order of the Eastern Star. Photo: John Campbell

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peacekeepers, firefighters and police officers.

Trent Hills Mayor Hector Macmillan, recently returned to office for a fourth term, said representing the municipality at the Perfect Pie Contest is one of the "favourite functions" he is called upon to perform as head of council.

He asked those attending the contest for the first time to stand and repeat after him his annual refrain, "There are no bad pies"—to which he added there are a few that are better, in the opinion of some.

In the opinion of those whose taste buds mattered most, judges Doris Buttar, Joan Warren and Darren Lawn, the category winners among the 120 pies entered were:

Fruit (Mrs. R.M. Potter Trophy) - Mary Jane Moffat, Peterborough
Apple (Helen and Frank Mallory Trophy) - Sara Jane Shakur

Meringue (Warkworth Business Association) - Leslie Woof, Codrington
Maple syrup (Warkworth Chapter No. 279) - Heather Aide, Warkworth

Filled (Don and Edna Thompson Bakery) - Carolyn Shier, Wooler
Pumpkin (Victory Trophy) - Amy Petherick, Campbellford

Savoury (Warkworth Golf Club) - Barbara Yatsula, Codrington
Seniors (Eclectic Mix) - Warkworth Community Nursing Home

Juniors (Frantic Farms Gallery, Cara Mia Bakery) - Jacob McKenzie, Warkworth
Men's open (On the Side catering) - John Hughes, Toronto

Pecan (in memory of Orville Scott) - Heather Clarke, Warkworth
Youth (Rick and Judy Norlock) - Robyn Stronge

Warkworth Chapter members - Earline Armstrong.

Retiree one book away from completing trilogy of mysteries

By John Campbell

Entertainment - Brighton - Laura Haferkorn wrote her first novel, *The Trouble with Some People*, and her latest, *Killing Blue Devils*, for a couple of reasons.

"I wanted to prove that I could stick to [writing] something longer than thirty-second commercials for the radio," which she had done for years working for her husband Canute's advertising agency.

The other reason struck deeper to her core: "I've got to leave something of myself behind," she said of her writing a pair of mysteries.

It was to satisfy a "certain part of vanity" and be recognized for having "accomplished something," said Haferkorn, who has four children but no grandchildren. "I guess I wanted to leave my name behind somewhere, even if it was on a remaindered [book]."

The inspiration for *Killing Blue Devils* was a decrepit house near Morganston, which appears on the cover illustration created by her daughter Sonja Shannon, who added an ominous sky, "to make it look scarier," Haferkorn said.

She wrote the first book based on "feelings" she had while walking alongside the Murray Canal.

"I just wanted to have fun with it, and I had a lot of fun going around and talking to all the different local groups about the book."

Haferkorn "combined things from the different places" where she and Canute, her husband of 60 years, have lived, from the inner city to the country, "so all of that experience has gone into these books."

The couple moved to Brighton six years ago after having called Salem home for 17 years.

The two books' main character is Gussie Spitsbury, a police constable in the small town of Bickerton. She's based on a police-woman Haferkorn knew "who was very glamorous."

The stories are set in the 1970s because Haferkorn "didn't want to deal with all the hand-held devices" that are common today.

She also made a point of not including

"gratuitous sex, violence and foul language" because those are three things she and people she spoke to about the sort of book that interests them don't like to see in mysteries, which they adore.

Haferkorn said her characters are "amalgams" of people she knows who seemed to have taken on "a life of their own, it's amazing." They start to take you in directions that you really had no idea of going, and you have them saying things you hadn't planned for them to say.

The two tales aren't police procedurals.

"I'm more interested in how people react in situations they

find themselves caught in, the [Alfred] Hitchcock idea of extraordinary things happening to ordinary people and how they deal with them," she said.

Haferkorn contracted Friesen Press in Victoria to print her books and she encourages others to consider self-publishing because it's "a good form of self-expression."

"I'd like to get other people involved in putting their life stories down. Some of them have ... incredible stories, some have written some great fiction, but they're very reluctant to go any further than that."

In speaking to various groups Haferkorn urges her listeners

"to keep on writing and not to quit because it's a great outlet."

Her two books are available at Light-house Books in Brighton—"a great supporter of local writers"—as well as at the library. They can also be obtained at <<http://www.friesenpress.com/bookstore>>.

Haferkorn had hoped to complete the third book in the series by the time she turns 80 next year but that will have to wait. She's decided to complete the manuscript she started many years ago based on her father's "quite fascinating" experiences while serving as a padre overseas in World War II



Killing Blue Devils is the latest novel self-published by Laura Haferkorn, a retired copywriter. Like her first mystery, *The Trouble with Some People*, it's about a female police officer in a small town whose characters are "amalgams" of people she knows. To learn more about the author, visit <www.laura-haferkorn.com>. Photo: John Campbell

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