

PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



At this time of year, a young woman's fancy often turns to weddings—and wedding cakes. Evelyn Farr, of Everton, has decorated wedding cakes (and birthday, anniversary, and special occasion cakes) for 11 years.

Not only are her creations works of art but they taste good. I know, I've eaten my share of Evelyn Farr cakes.

When we built our log house north of Acton, our housewarming featured an original cake decorated with a detailed and accurate log house surrounded by flowers and sporting a sugaring donkey (Evelyn-made) on the front lawn.

Other cakes she designs and creates—all from scratch—feature pink elephants, plump clowns, munchkins, horse heads, books and bikes.

The wedding cake of two good friends who just happened to be chicken farmers pictured a delightful rooster and hen and said "to a couple of good eggs".

These cakes are fun cakes and Evelyn says she loves doing them. The cakes she makes for family and friends, the ones she doesn't repeat and doesn't get paid for, are her favourites.

But she loves creating unique wedding cakes, too.

Flowers her fancy

When she starts a wedding cake she can bake the cakes if the client wishes, or use those baked by the bride's family. She also requests the bride to provide her own top piece and Evelyn will

design the cake around it. Her creations are all pictured in a colorful scrap book. Evelyn is quick to say the photographs don't do the cakes justice but they certainly look gorgeous to one who hasn't seen the originals.

Most of Evelyn's wedding cakes are decorated with flowers, roses, daisies, sweet peas and for winter, poinsettias. The top arrangements echo the frosted flowers with silk blooms. Instead of the traditional plastic pillars, Evelyn often uses inverted wine glasses so the bride and groom can find some use for them later.

One 50th wedding anniversary cake is a piece of art in off-white with old gold decorations giving a lovely antique look to the cake.

Icing for 11 years

Evelyn's hobby started when her first son, Herb, was a toddler. She and husband Bruce had just moved to the Everton farm where Bruce farms goats and donkeys and runs a farm equipment repair service.

Evelyn took a course in decorating at the Guelph YMCA in the fall of '68. She experimented, practised, and designed until her cakes became in demand from people who wanted to order specialties. Now she teaches decorating and has run several courses from her own home. She has also taught at the Eramosa night classes, and at the Guelph "Y".

The perfection and downright good taste of her cakes has people coming back with more orders. Her prices are extremely reasonable.

Using a butter cream type icing made with hydrogenated vegetable shortening, Evelyn can fashion any cake a client wants. She says she really enjoys doing something unusual.

"Sometimes my ideas come out of desperation", she says.

The vegetable shortening in the icing goes hard on contact with the air and that enables Evelyn to work without refrigeration on warm days.



She uses a wide variety of tips bought separately from the metal guns she uses. The Farr boys, Herb, 12, and Tom 9, are Evelyn's greatest critics ("they're often right", she says) and her most ardent pupils.

Herb likes nothing better than to squeeze all sorts of gooey animals out of the icing gun—it's better than play-dough.

The delicate coloring Evelyn achieves with her wedding flowers, are designed to match brides' colors. Sometimes cakes are also decorated with sugar molds she makes herself from white granulated sugar and egg white.

"It's the only hobby where you can eat your mistakes, Evelyn chuckles as she slips out a flavoured flower.

Vandalism

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Still, the nursing home has not been without vandalism. Telephone wires have been pulled out, gas siphoned out of a car, and the back gate was stood on and bent.

Rural dumping

It costs a lot of money for two trucks to pick up the garbage dumped on our rural roads, Richardson complained. He believes that it's a problem. "To me, taking your garbage and dumping it on someone else's property is vandalism. There are bylaws against that and people can be prosecuted and made to pay fines."

Last year's figures also showed that \$634,000 vandalism damage was done in the entire region. This total was divided among Burlington-\$312,000, Oakville-\$192,000, Halton Hills and Milton-\$130,000.

Costs increasing

The cost of vandalism has increased over the past year.

Claude Page, of Page Glass & Mirrors, stated that a sheet of glass, seven feet by eight feet, costs approximately \$250 to replace. Last year it was \$200. That's \$50 more.

Add that to the \$300 for repairs of damages to cars, and according to Jim Strain of Creative Memorials, \$125 for tombstone repairs.

Compare these to last year's costs, \$200 for car repairs, \$200 for a window and \$100 for tombstone repairs. That's \$75 more than last year and that means more money from homeowners and tax payers' pockets.

Vandalism not an offence

Probation officer Dennis Kunze and Helen Daniels from juvenile squad, both agree that very few people are caught in the act of vandalism.

There is no separate section in the criminal code for vandalism. A person can't stand trial for vandalism. He or she can only be charged with mischief, offences to property, or wilful damage.

The normal police procedure in a case of vandalism is to speak to the owner of the property and find out if anybody in the area saw or heard anything that could help find the people responsible.

Officer Jim Turner, from the Halton Regional Police, stated bluntly his definition of vandalism, "any destruction, to anything, anywhere." He was harsh when commenting on the reasons for vandalism. "I think the parents and schools are to blame. I think stricter parental leadership is needed. Stricter rules too. They (the vandals) should all be locked up, even for a first offence. There is a need for more police and cars."

Schools have alarms

A new burglar alarm system has helped to decrease vandalism in Acton's public schools. This

alarm is so sensitive that if there is a sudden drop in temperature, the alarm goes off.

M.Z. Bennett principal Douglas Magwood gave an example of how the alarm works. "If a gerbil was let out of a cage and allowed to run across the floor, then the alarm would go off."

With this new alarm vandalism has steadily decreased. Now only the minor incidents such as broken light switch frames, graffiti written on walls and smashed windows, remain to be dealt with.

There is a very, very minimal amount of vandalism here," stated Acton high school vice-principal Lyn McLaren. "Mind you, there is vandalism in trace, but most of it is out of school time. Broken windows, things like that. We did have an air vent damaged in school time though. The people responsible were two youths from Burlington. Parents were notified and damages were paid for."

When asked about the Vandalism problem Mr. McLaren commented proudly "compared to other schools, we don't have much of a problem. Visitors can't believe this school has been occupied for three years."

McKenzie-Smith Middle School principal John Simpson agreed. "No problem at the school. Sure there's the odd fire alarm pulled or damage done to the water fountain, but nothing more serious."

Magwood said "Vandalism is a very minor problem. Not much this year, some graffiti written on walls. Last year though, on two different weekends, 14 or 15 windows were broken. Two years ago, we had a few cases of break and enter. Other than that, there hasn't been a problem."

Ron Chatten, principal at Robert Little School commented, "We've had no major problems. We've had a few broken windows and we've had an attempted break and enter, but the person responsible was apprehended and restitution was made."

St. Joseph's School is without the alarm system. In the last two years there have been four break-ins at St. Joseph's.

"We knew who was responsible. Juveniles. They took supplies. Other than that no real problems," principal Sean Briggs said.

The general consensus among the five principals is that vandalism is a minor problem. It seems that fire alarm pulling is the main concern.

Reasons for vandalism

Larry Greaves, head of the BIA in Acton, put it bluntly. "People don't know how to amuse themselves today."

With that, there are three other reasons why people vandalize according to Acton High School teacher Geoff Sansom who has studied the problem. Power, attention and revenge.

Market assessment...

(Continued from Page 1)

Both warned studies could take the town to the point of no return. "If the province wants it they should implement it, but want the municipalities to take the flack."

Mayor Pete Pomeroy asked why the assessment department has records based on the '75 market value if council does not want it.

Beach said the '75 values were recorded when the province first suggested market value but stressed the 1975 market value is not used.

After the vote rejecting market value assessment, general committee agreed by a one vote margin to have the mayor set up a committee of councillors, staff, and private individuals, to bring back more information on market value assessment.

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Four and a half year old Jennifer Webb gets some help from her mother Nancy during the registration at Honey Pot Nursery last week. Teacher Sue Adam, right, watches.

Fireworks display caps...

(Continued from Page 1)

baked goods, books, plants and a fish pond. There will also be a number of contests for both adults and children and pony rides all day. Candy booths will be another attraction.

Saturday night the Acton Optimist Club is sponsoring a dance at Acton Community Centre. Tickets will be available at Family Cleaners and Halton Hills Furniture.

Throughout the day there will be a Back to Acton Days softball tournament for men and women's teams. There will be at least 24 games both Saturday and Sunday and a big Bar-B-Q. Pat Wood is organizing the tournament. Sunday, which has

been rained out the past two years but organizers expect will be sunny and dry this year, features more softball, a fishing derby and more pony rides.

The festivities will wind up Sunday night with fireworks at dusk.

Anyone interested in helping with the project or activity ideas should

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

A CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS IN AND AROUND ACTON

Drop in to meet the Ward 1 area councillors every Friday, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Community Service Centre located at the "Y" Acton.

Salvation Army thrift store located 3 Elgin St. N. For pickup on Mondays only phone 853-3321. Clothes of any nature in any condition will be received.

Pot Luck Supper for all Cancer Society volunteers—Counselors, captains, drivers, activity group workers etc. to be held at Knox Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, June 4th at 8:15 p.m. Please bring a pot luck and your own plate, cup and cutlery.

This year, 9060 Canadian women will be found to have breast cancer. For this reason, every woman should know and practice breast self-examination (BSE) regularly. Be sure to attend the free breast examination clinic, Saturday, June 7, 12-8 p.m. at the Georgetown Hospital. A film on BSE will be shown, and a nurse will conduct private BSE instruction. For added protection, a local doctor will be available for a personal breast examination. Registration and babysitting at Georgetown Medical Centre (877-1124).

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