

Margaret's the person behind the PR scenes

By DAVE ROWNEY
Herald Staff

The lady who has been the 'behind the scenes' person for downtown Georgetown's Pioneer Days has waltzed her way from one interesting job to another.

Margaret Vint, an accomplished Latin and ballroom dancer from her early days in Scotland, is well known to the business community in Georgetown.

In November '83 she was hired by the Chamber of Commerce as an administrator for the BIG (Business in Georgetown) Celebration. The three day event was held in June '84, but it took many months to plan the dinner, exhibits and souvenir coins to commemorate 120 years of business in town.

With the Chamber project completed, Mr. Vint was hired by the downtown B.I.A. (Business Improvement Area) as a promotions co-ordinator. She's now working to complete plans for Pioneer Days, an outdoor street market full of special events, entertainment and exhibits June 20, 21, 22.

Mrs. Vint got an early start in business when she worked for a Glasgow, Scotland department store called The House of Fraser.

She had a staff of six girls working for her in the fashions department.

At the age of 23 she came to Canada. "I had a notion to work and live in another country," Mrs. Vint said.

She found a job with Creed's Furs, a high fashion store on Bloor Street in Toronto.

Mrs. Vint met her future husband Ron shortly after she arrived in Canada and they married in 1966. Ron was a native of Georgetown, so when they began looking for a house, the town seemed an ideal place to settle down.

The couple moved to Georgetown in 1969 and Mrs. Vint went to work for Irwin-Dorsey Ltd. the same year. The

company started up the same year she came to work for them and she was one of four employees back then.

Mrs. Vint handled a variety of duties, public relations, helping to co-ordinate customer service, "everything but the ordering", she said.

"When I went to work for the company I didn't know a thing about publishing, but it was a challenge," she said. "I enjoyed it because of the people contact. I never thought of myself as a PR person, but a lot of work was geared to that."

She left the firm to have a son, Ian, and stayed at home until 1979 when president Dick Willis asked her to come back as his administrative assistant.

Irwin-Dorsey closed its doors in 1981 but Mrs. Vint says her feelings for the company are still almost paternal. "It wasn't just a job, it became part of me," she said.

FIRA, the foreign investment review agency had a hand in the closing of the Georgetown branch. Mrs. Vint said she hasn't given up hope that the company will be revived in Canada, though.

As promotions co-ordinator for Pioneer Days in Georgetown, Mrs. Vint is able to draw on her public relations experience.

She is trying to promote a true pioneer theme for the three day event. "Pioneering means to me homegrown and local. I really believe we have a lot of talented people right here."

Pioneer Days will focus on demonstrations and displays and pioneer crafts will be exhibited by a variety of clubs.

Mrs. Vint lists French as a hobby and she has taken a two year course at Sheridan College in the subject.

She likes reading autobiographies, travelling and entertaining for company.



MARGARET VINT

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On Wednesday, March 27, U.S. Representative Judd Gregg introduced a bill in the House of Representatives banning all forms of satellite scrambling for a period of 2 years. Bill HR1789 provides for a 2 year moratorium on all satellite scrambling. Congressmen Charlie Rose and Bill Tauzin introduced a second bill further entrenching the right of any satellite system owner to acquire a decoder in the event that there is any scrambling after the 2 year moratorium. Simultaneously, the FCC ordered an end to discriminatory zoning regulations which have been used by some jurisdictions to restrict the sale of home

satellite systems. For the past few months, news reporters have predicted the demise of the satellite business in North America. "As it turns out, very few of the 130 or so satellite channels have ever considered scrambling as an option. To further debunk claims of the existence of encoding systems which could only be accessed through the use of sophisticated receivers, satellite pioneer Bob Cooper Jr. presented evidence to an audience of government and satellite industry representatives wherein several inexpensive home satellite receivers could be modified for use with the HBO encryption service. Cooper reported that the modifications in most instances cost about \$8.

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