



By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

... Lend Me Your Ears

LOSS OF HEARING DUE TO NON-AGING FACTORS

Hearing loss due to aging can be compounded by other things. A few of these include noise exposure, disease and ear infections.

Hearing loss due to age and noise are cumulative. That is, hearing loss from noise exposure will be added on to hearing loss due to aging. Neither are medically correctable. There is something to be said for protecting the hearing we have left by wearing hearing protectors while doing shop work or target shooting.

Each of us reacts differently to hearing loss. We may totally or partially deny that a problem exists. Typical "denial" statements are "you're mumbling again", or "I was not paying attention" and can be a way of concealing hearing difficulties.

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FOOD AND DRINK

AFTER 25 YEARS, THIS GEORGETOWN COFFEE SHOP IS CLOSING

BRYAN MYERS
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It's the end of an era for an iconic Georgetown coffee shop.

Baker's Dozen is scheduled to close on Dec. 13.

As well-known as Ma has become to many Georgetown residents - all the regulars at the coffee shop call her "Ma" - she's made the effort to know them well.

When a customer asks what the soup of the day is, Ma, without missing a beat, replies, "You won't like it."

A licensed lottery-ticket seller, the Baker's Dozen has had its share of winners - which is ironic, considering the name of the business points to a traditionally unlucky number.

In 2016, a ticket purchased at the store resulted in a \$25,000 prize.

The next year, a lucky patron went



Bryan Myers/Torstar

Van 'Mama' Ma, owner of Baker's Dozen. Ma will retire this month after spending more than 25 years in the well-known coffee shop.

home \$10,000 richer, as an Encore winner.

In 2018, the total prizes paid out from tickets purchased at Ma's shop was \$88,611.

Ma came to Canada from Singapore in 1974. She raised her children in Georgetown, and originally owned a jewelry shop near Baker's Dozen. When her children went to university, she moved her shop to Toronto and, moving back, ended up taking on the Baker's Dozen.

For 25 years, more or less, Ma has opened the store at 5 a.m. and gone home at 7 p.m.

Now, factoring in an increasing lease payment and wear and tear on her knees, Ma said she's chosen to retire. Following her retirement, Ma said, she was going to spend some time in Singapore - she hasn't returned in 40 years - to visit family.

Baker's Dozen (306 Guelph St.) will close on Dec. 13. A farewell party is scheduled to start at 2 p.m.

From our family to yours...



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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