

kith 'n' kin

Dr David Dumencu A Life Remembered

BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

By now most of us know about Dr. David Dumencu's death; that he was found with severe head injuries lying in the parking lot outside a bar in Orillia on July 16. He died two days later at Toronto Western Hospital.

Dr. Dumencu lived in Brookville with his family and worked as a dentist at the Southview Dental Clinic in Milton. I knew him as my dentist so the news of his death was difficult for me.

At times like these, you try to remember as many little details about a person as possible. Right now, I wish I had been taking notes, but there's no way I could have known what was going to happen. I know that whenever I went to his office for an appointment I could talk to him. I was shy at first since I was new in town, but he made me feel welcome.

I first met him about three years ago. We'd moved from the Malton area of Mississauga and we'd bought a home in the Dorset Park area of town. I wanted to live in a nice area then, and it meant a lot to me to feel safe. In Malton, we had lived in a low-rise apartment building and I didn't feel all that comfortable there. In the summer of 2000, a few people walked by our apartment door and someone decided to shoot a gun out in the hallway. We don't know a lot about what actually happened as we did not open our door. When a police officer came to visit us later he found shell casings on the floor and two bullet holes, one in the elevator and one in the wall.

We had planned to move anyway, but this incident gave us the extra push we needed to get out.

I needed a dentist in town and a lady who babysat my daughter gave Dr. Dumencu a glowing recommendation. He didn't disappoint. I can remember

going into his office where I found an assortment of paintings and photographs on the wall. If I didn't know what to say - which was often - then I usually asked him questions about the paintings or the photographs. It was a two-way conversation; I never felt like he left me out of the equation. I could sense the sincerity that was there as well, and that made all the difference for me.

I learned things about him: that he liked to take black and white photographs; that he enjoyed golfing; that he had a group of good friends that he golfed with. There was a photo taken by him on one wall showing Dr. Dumencu and his friends on a golfing trip and another of a barn that he'd photographed in Nassagaweya. He liked nature and natural subjects. On another wall in an adjoining room, there was a print depicting a lynx.

One of the things I liked best about his office was the picture of the Starship Enterprise from Star Trek that he had hung on the ceiling just above the dental chair. I'm left wondering just how many people sat staring into outer space as he completed their dental work.

He's gone now and I don't know how to end this. It's a bit painful for me because I can see the irony. I didn't expect to be writing about someone being touched by violence, least of all someone from Milton. I thought I'd left much of that behind in Mississauga. But it's naive to think you can escape violence. I know that.

What I'd like to do is to say thank you to Dr. Dumencu one last time; but this time I won't be thanking him for doing his job well. I know he's not here, but at the very least I can let his family know that he made me feel welcome at a time when I needed it most.

The Bird has flown

Deb Quaille says goodbye to six years with the Compass

BY DONNA DANIELLI

Every good thing must come to an end, and so, it is with deep regret that the Compass says good bye to one of its founders, Deb Quaille.

Deb has been involved with the Compass since day one, and her quiet humour, friendly style and supreme baking skills will be sorely missed around the office.

Deb has a long and storied career in the newspaper industry. She has written for the Guelph Mercury, Rural Voice, Nassagaweya News, Country Woman, Destinations and Discoveries, Daytripping, and more.



enough, it is once again her design that is being unveiled as the new Compass logo. Even though she may have left the building, it seems a part of Deb will always be here.

What Deb says she will miss the most as she leaves the Compass are the people she has met and worked with over the years. "Those personal interviews, talking to the people and getting the real stories of the landscape, those were my favourite times," she says.

She also recounts memories of the early days of the Compass, when the paper was produced out of Reid Kennedy's kitchen, and she would sit at the picnic table as she proofread each issue.

Deb has been working on other projects which are now keeping her even busier than before. She is already the author of two publications "Mrs. Merry's Memories" and "Rockwood: A Mosaic of Memories", and she is hard at work on a third, based on Lucy Maud Montgomery's life in Norval from 1926 to 1936. She is working on a Christmas-themed Sunday School play and is exploring the possibility of producing a kids' travel book on the hidden treasures to be found travelling in Ontario. For now though, she is looking forward to a well deserved vacation with husband Dave, and her two children Sheilagh and Stewart.

It is with great affection, and just a little sadness, that the staff at the Compass wishes you the best of luck, Deb. You have been a friend, a mentor and a confidante to each of us and you will be missed for so much more than just your banana bread. Good luck with all of your future endeavours.

"I TYPE SET, EDITED, WROTE, DESIGNED, DELIVERED THE PAPERS, ANSWERED THE PHONES AND MADE THE BANANA BREAD."

It was a chance phone call six and a half years ago that brought her to the Compass though. "Councillor Cindy Lunau knew that I had worked with the old Acton Tanner before it folded, and that I wasn't happy working at the Nass. News," explains Deb. "She knew that Reid Kennedy was developing his own newspaper, and suggested that I call him." That phone call led to a six-year career and a variety of job titles over the years. Billed as just a writer in the first issue of the Compass, Deb quickly became more involved. She and her husband, Dave, designed the Compass logo for the second issue, and she quickly became involved in the actual production of the paper as well as writing articles and covering events. "I type set, edited, wrote, designed, delivered the papers, answered the phones and made the banana bread," laughs Deb as she remembers the past six years.

Her titles at the Compass over the years have included: Production Manager, Arts Editor, Managing Editor, Assignment Editor, Contributing Editor, and more. "I guess you can say I'm well grounded in the newspaper business," she laughs, before explaining that "it was a small business so everyone needed to be involved in all aspects." Ironically



**If eating apples is only in your dreams
give us a call, we can help!**



Georgetown Denture Clinic

Alexander Trenton, Denturist

18 Church Street, Georgetown

(Across from the library and Cultural Centre)

(905) 877-2359

Creating confident smiles since 1982!

THE VACUUM STORE

- Repairs to all makes and models
- 1000's of parts in stock



785 Main St E., Milton
(905) 876-3394

Stylagraph

Desktop Publishing
& Graphic Design

Typesetting • Graphic Design
Composition • Pagination
Photo Enhancements • Colour Printing
Advertisements • Magazines
Catalogues • Newspapers • Newsletters
Brochures • Booklets • Flyers • Leaflets
Posters • Menus • Calendars
Business Cards • Documents

Tel (519) 853-0717 • Cell (905) 691-8535
Email stylagraph@sympatico.ca
www.stylagraph.com