

MARG AND DAVE DODGSON

### Acton Jiu-Jitsu Martial Arts and Self Defence

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# Marg and Dave Dodgson's dinners at Seniors Centre are scrumptious

This is the final instalment in a series of four articles during Seniors' Month (June) BY JULIE CONROY.

The couple we are featuring this week are Marg and Dave Dodgson. Most seniors who belong to the Acton Seniors Centre know them for their personalities and entertainment ideas. Marg comes up with great dinners always with a theme and Dave is very supportive of her. Although she would be the first to admit she has a great team working with her to accomplish this.

Margaret Dodgson (Coker) was born in Huntsville, Ontario, and started cooking part time in the local restaurant when she was 13. When she entered high school she started working weekends at a bakery in the downtown area. She says they made the best milk shakes in town. So as you can see, she got an early start with her love of cooking and baking.

Like many Beardmore employees, when the Huntsville tannery closed, her father was transferred to Acton and the whole family, of course, moved. Marg worked at Beardmore's, too, for a year. She met Dave in the post office where he was working and they fell in love. She was also very active in St. Alban's Church, taught Sunday school and was on the altar guild. She was also involved in Brownies and became a

Tawny Owl enjoying helping the Brownies earn their badges.

Dave was born in London Ontario, and after graduating high school moved to Acton to live with his sister. Some people may remember him working in the Acton Post Office until 1962. While in Acton he was involved with the Y'S Men's Club in Acton and was also a Cub leader. He then moved to Toronto and worked for a brokerage company on Bay Street.

In 1962 Marg and Dave married and moved to Brampton. Dave worked for Northern Electric in Bramalea for a while and then opened a restaurant called Ali Baba in Brampton, spending several years there. Marg was busy with payroll, accounting, and Dave was busy running the restaurant. When they sold the restaurant Dave returned to Northern Telecom (as it was now called), and eventually became Senior Plant Manager on the afternoon shift.

Marg worked at Zellers in Brampton and Georgetown, and at Hydro in Georgetown and Acton. During this time they moved to Georgetown.

The couple moved to Tillsonburg when they retired and made a lot of good friends there, and became busy helping to raise funds (by doing banquets) for a local church. Their love of catering caused them to start a small catering business in their home, which kept them very busy.

When Marg's father, Ernie Coker, became ill they gave up the catering business to nurse him. When he passed away they returned to Acton. We are certainly glad they did,

as they have both given many hours of pleasure to people with their great dinners, especially the Chinese Dinner last month, the St. Patrick's dinner (even though we had had quite a snowstorm), everyone who purchased tickets showed up. The O.K. Corral last summer, which included western food, and local square dancers to entertain us, was another success. Now we are all looking forward to the Hawaiian Luau.

You can tell there is an artistic side to Marg, which shows up in the creative ideas she has for the different dinners. I understand she also enjoys cake decorating and gardening, making stained glass decorations, and her scrapbook (filled I am sure with many pictures of her grandchildren).

Dave and Marg are both on the Board of the Acton Senior Centre. Dave is also Property Chairman. They



Dave and Marg in their younger years

both have made many new friends since returning to Acton. Dave says his goal at the moment is to ensure that our current facilities are large enough to accommodate the needs for senior citizens as more and more retire, live longer and are able to enjoy the activities they are entitled to after all their years of hard work.

Marg and Dave have two daughters Elizabeth and Bonnie and four grandchildren ranging in age from 3 to 23. Like all grandparents they really enjoy the pleasure their grandchildren bring.

Over the years they have managed to find some time for leisure during their busy lives and have had many holidays to exotic places. Which might help explain where some of the ideas come from? They have travelled many parts of the U.S.A. and also visited Barbados, Cuba, Portugal Spain, Hawaii and Morocco. Dave got quite inspired by the belly dancers in Morocco. So we might get a Moroccan evening?

They've enjoyed several cruises around the Caribbean and one to Alaska which included a visit to Vancouver and a ride on the" Rocky Mountain Train" which Marg felt was most inspiring, and the scenery incredible.

This is the final article in the series the Tanner has been running for the month of June, (Seniors Month) and as you can see all four couples have had very busy and eventful lives, but the common theme in all the stories, was volunteering, and helping others and in doing so keeping themselves busy and active in spirit and body.

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Documents will be available for pick up on and after Friday, June 25, 2004. There is a non-refundable deposit of \$26.75 (includes GST). Bidders who request documents to be shipped from the Purchasing Department must include a handling fee of \$10.70 (includes GST) for this service. Please be advised that this particular bid document is also available for purchase and download from the Region website at www.region.halton.on.ca/bids.

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