

Lifestyles

People from all walks of life getting tattoos, says owner of new Main Street tattoo shop

By **FANNIE SUNSHINE**
The Champion

There's more to the art of tattooing than drawing a picture, tracing it on skin and following the lines with a needle.

"Anyone can draw a line but not everyone can follow it," said Paul Vicary, owner of Dermagraphics By Paul, which recently opened on Main Street.

He's been in the tattoo and piercing business for 23 years and has owned his own tattoo shop in Guelph for 17 years.

"I was always good at art. (Tattooing) is a piece of art nobody can take away from you."

But there are differences between tattooing skin and drawing on a canvass, Mr. Vicary said.

"A canvass can't move," he said with a laugh. "People think getting a tattoo is going to hurt, so they're afraid before they actually sit in the chair. The more they relax, the easier it will be."

Women tend to want tattoos placed on their lower back and shoulder area, while

men lean toward the arms.

"But some will want them all over," Mr. Vicary said. "The men don't go for the make-up. I do a lot of women who want eyeliner permanently tattooed on, and lip work is popular."

And if you're intoxicated, on drugs or under the age of 18, you can forget about hearing the buzz of the needle.

"I won't do tattoos with racial slurs or Helter Skelter type tattoos," he said firmly. "I won't do tattoos on the sides of the feet because it's a totally different skin type than the rest of the body. The ink tends to spread and blur and tends to wear down quicker."

Even if you're a couple years off from voting age, you can get a piercing if you're old enough to drive.

"Belly buttons, eyebrows and tongue (piercings) are very popular," Mr. Vicary said.

And if people think only young, rebellious adults tattoo themselves, think again.

"I did a tattoo on a 68-year-old woman the other day. My clientele consists of doctors and lawyers. I even did a tattoo on a nun at my Guelph shop."

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I'm a chuck-a-pucker and quite proud of it

I'm a chuck-a-pucker.

What's that, you say?

Let me explain. At a lot of minor hockey tournaments and junior hockey games, they have a chuck-a-puck contest between periods. You can win prizes or half the money, depending on their particular format.

I don't care about the prizes, I want to win. I think I can win, and I think I should win.

I did just that at minor hockey tournament last season. I chucked my puck out onto the ice and it landed almost exactly in the middle dot at center ice. A moment of exhilaration, because I rarely win at anything.

I should win at things, but I don't. Don't ask me why.

When I go to my nephew's Jr. A hockey games, they have the chuck-a-puck contest right after they flood the ice between the second and third intermissions.

I don't want to carry the pucks around with me for two periods, so near the end of



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the second period, I go to the stand that sells them. They cost a dollar each.

It costs a buck to chuck a puck.

All the pucks are numbered and you write down your name beside the number of the puck or pucks you buy.

I have a quick cigarette between the second and third periods. That's a habit I will be quitting very soon, incidentally, maybe by the time you read this.

Then I take my place with my pucks. Normally, I get two of them, but the last

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Tattoo artist Paul Vicary, owner of Dermagraphics By Paul on Main Street, says both young and old come into his shop.

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