

A "Splash of Colour"

Imagine a hot summer day and you are on a scaffold painting the ceiling of the nave of a church. The fumes of the special metal paint, the heat of the day, and the high humidity conspire together to create an atmosphere that would discourage most of us from ever taking on such a task, but it is just another day's work for the partners, Dot Stevenson and Barbara Walford-Davis and Dot's husband Frank Stevenson, as they paint the interior of St. Philip's Anglican Church, in Milford.

Dot and Barbara started their decorating business in July of '89, and with the exception of some time they have taken off for a break, they have been in steady demand. They have worked as far away as Brighton, although most of the jobs they have taken on have been in the County.

From time to time, they have to call on Dot's husband, Frank, to take time from his farming operation and help with some of the work. Such was the case when they were contracted to paint the exterior and interior of a large two car garage with a two storey A-frame guest cottage built above it. Frank painted the back of this structure, being the only one of the team who could manouver a ladder in a four foot space between the back wall and a tall hedge of cedar trees, and still be able to paint the gable at the peak, some three storeys up.

Painting and wallpapering in older houses is not as straight forward as it sounds. Frequently the walls are less than plumb, the corners meet at angles not quite 90 degrees, and the plaster needs repair. Dot and Barbara are becoming quite adept at putting up and finishing drywall, replastering sections of wall, and filling in cracks around windows, doors and baseboards with caulking.

Having wallpapered our bathroom twice with my better half, and recognizing that there is no greater test to a partnership than doing so, I knew as soon as Dot said they even papered bathrooms, that their partnership was a solid one, and that they would be in business as long as there was a need for their services, or they won the lottery. In the meantime,, take a look at St. Philip's and the excellence of their work there.

