

From choppers to calories

Pilot's new business is taking off

By MAXINE SHARE

Markham merchant Diane Pepper has foregone one adult fantasy to pursue another.

After piloting a helicopter in her job as traffic reporter for radio station CKEY for 9 years, the energetic single mother opened a chocolate truffle shop on Markham's Main St.

But the way she sees it, the two careers have a lot in common.

"It wasn't a big leap, actually," she says. She describes the selection of tempting treats as "adult fantasy, just like helicopters are a fantasy for adults because they are expensive toys."

She said her product has been well-received in Markham, a town she selected for her business

with confidence. She has her sights set on expanding to include catering and is "looking into a second location closer to the centre of town."

Starting her business here was a natural move, she says. Although she moved to Stouffville last summer, she lived in Markham for 10 years.

"I feel very comfortable here and I want to move back. She chose the "small, intimate" Markham location because "I like living and working in the same area, supporting that area. The trades I used (in preparing the store) were from Markham."

And there was another consideration: "I hate to drive, I hate traffic jams. If there are two cars

at a stoplight, I get upset."

"Then I wish my car had a rotor and I could do a vertical climb straight up," she laughs.

If plans prove successful, Ms. Pepper could be climbing high herself. "I'm definitely getting into marketing. I plan to cater sweet trays and prepare unusual moulds and also supply local restaurants."

Colleague Nancy Goldie predicts the venture will be a success.

"She is absolutely wonderful with people and the product is

great," she said.

Ms. Pepper has the skills to prepare the truffles herself, "but there is just not enough time," she says.

She divides her day between caring for the store and her three-year old son Justin. "He's always asking if he can come in and help," she says.

If community response is any indication, she'll need all the help she can get," adds Mrs. Goldie.

"So many of the customers are telling us they are the best truffles they've ever had."

"I was in the store last week and a woman bought 18 truffles for a dinner party. It was hot and she left them in the car. She came back and bought 18 more and proceeded to eat the melted batch."

Ms. Pepper says she loves people as much as her customers love the product. "I'm good at communicating and love working with people. I also love to feed people, so this is perfect."

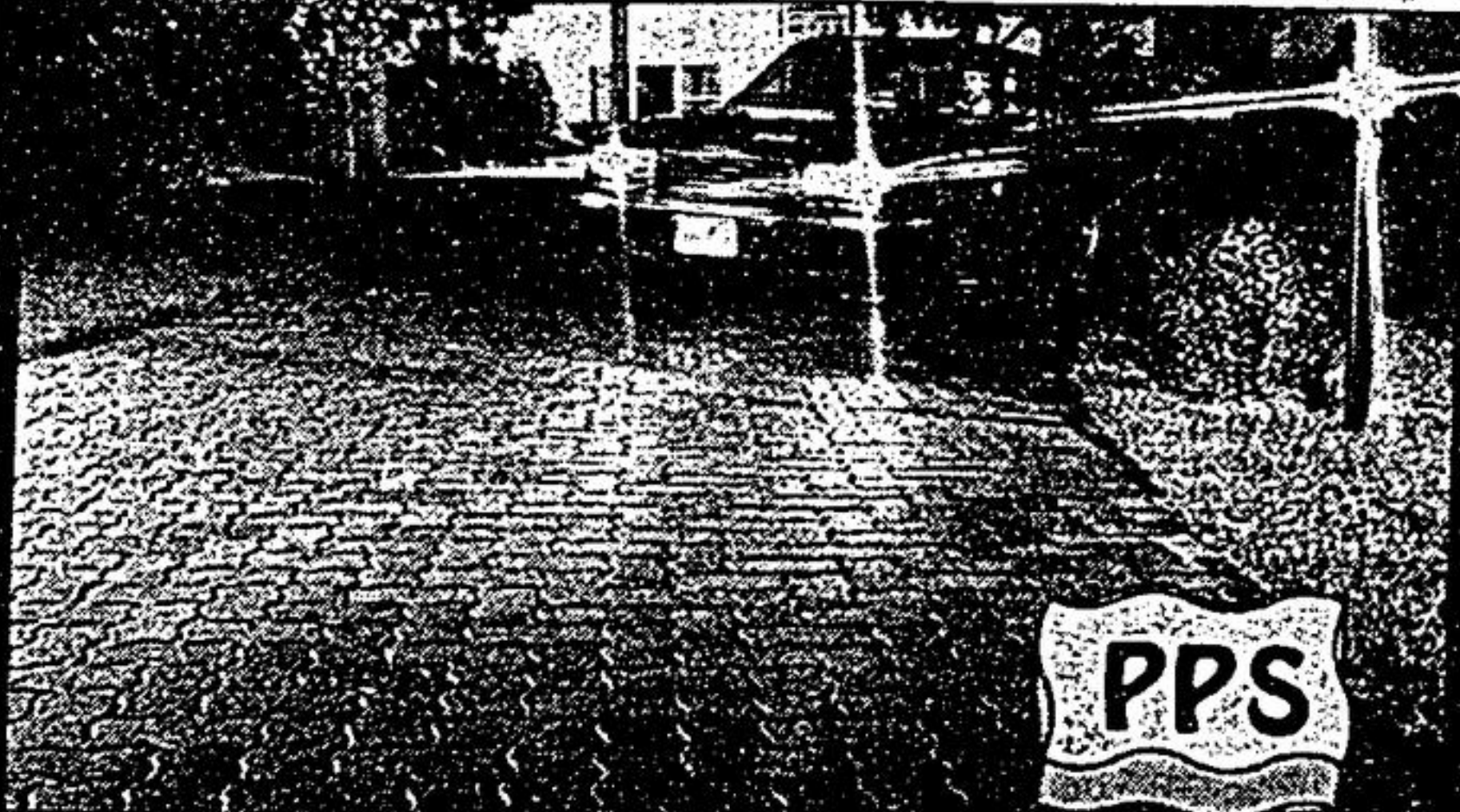
And her friends like feeding her too. She's waiting for them to deliver a chocolate helicopter.

BUY DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURER
AND GET THE BEST FOR LESS
INTERLOCKING PAVING STONES

MANY SHAPES
AND COLOURS
TO CHOOSE FROM

as low as
99¢ sq. ft.

DO-IT-YOURSELF OR USE OUR AUTHORIZED INSTALLERS



Perma Paving Stone Co.

4675 Steeles Ave. East (Steeles & Kennedy)
R.R. #1 Agincourt (416) 754-2388
Scarborough, Ontario
M1S 3B2 Open to the Public

**STEVENSON TRIPLE B
R.V. SERVICE**

(Formerly located on Steeles Ave. E. in Milliken)

WE HAVE MOVED TO UXBRIDGE!

9 Douglas Road, Unit #3, Uxbridge, Ont. L0C 1K0
852-6888 or Toronto Line 640-6511

- We carry a large selection of R.V. Parts & Accessories
- Propane fittings & regulators
- New, demo & used R.V. Furnaces, Refrigerators, Water Heaters
- Quality repairs to all recreational vehicles including motor homes, trailers, tent trailers, vans
- Repairs to all makes of R.V. Appliances
- (Authorized Factory Service Centre for Duotherm-Dometic-Norcold-Surburban-Coleman)
- Awnings a specialty
- Screened Patio Rooms available
- Expert Fibreglass repairs to all fibreglass
- Ask about our Fibco Tent Trailers
- Motor home rentals at competitive rates
- Park service available spring 1987
- Wiring - Horse Trailers a specialty

CALL US AT 852-6888 OR
TORONTO LINE 640-6511

HOURS: MONDAY to FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



NEW
MAGNA II
50% STRONGER

NEW
HIGH POWER
FACIAL

**SUNRISE
SILVER TANNING CENTRE**



SPECIAL
10 sessions for \$55

SUNRISE TANNING CENTRE
4681 HWY. 7
(UNIONVILLE BYPASS)
UNIONVILLE, ONT.

FOR INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL
479-1408

- SILVER SOLARIUM SYSTEMS
- SAFE TANNING
- NO BURNING
- HEALTHY GOLDEN LOOK
- PREVENTS AGED WEATHER LOOK
- PRIVATE ROOMS
- CLIMATE CONTROL FOR TANNING COMFORT
- STEREO SOUND ROOMS
- GREAT FOR PRE-HOLIDAY BASE
- KEEP THAT VACATION TAN
- AND MUCH MORE
- MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

BUSINESS HOURS:
MON-FRI 10 AM - 9 PM
SATURDAY 10 AM - 6 PM
SUNDAY 10 AM - 6 PM

Former helicopter pilot Diane Pepper is trying her hand at something a little different these days. She's opened a chocolate truffles store on Markham Main St. and, of course, she says, business is taking off.
—Sjoerd Witteveen