

DJ doles out the hits for most celebrations

By BRUCE STAPLEY

Jeff Stover is Stouffville's music man.

The 21-year-old started taking piano lessons at age 11. He's now turned his love of music into a near full-time pursuit.

His disc jockey service, Spinners, sees him spending much of his spare time at dances and other functions, spinning records until the crowd's too tired to dance anymore.

Employed at Schell Lumber, Edward Street, Stouffville by day, Jeff gathers his records, tapes and sound equipment and heads out as far as Hamilton for evening and weekend assignments.

He's disc jockeyed for the Greens Restaurant's gala New Year's Eve extravaganza, does dances at Stouffville District Secondary School, and was kept busy during the recent Strawberry Festival.

But he had to draw the line when it came to providing music for his own recent wedding reception.

"I tried to figure out how I could do it myself, setting up all the records and tapes in advance and all that, but it couldn't be done," he claims.

Jeff says he became hooked on music in his early teens, when he started playing in a band with a couple of friends.

"We did it just for fun," he

recalls. "I'd play the piano."

He got involved in the technical end of the Variety Show when he went to SDSS, then took a theatre arts course at Niagara College in Welland. There, he learned sound and audio techniques.

It was while at college he started disc jockeying. When he graduated in 1986, he pursued it further.

"It's been crazy since then," he says. "It's hard to believe there is so much out there."

He's managed to find time to keep his playing skills sharp in between work days at Schell's and DJ jobs. He played piano and synthesizer for the 25th anniversary edition of Music Mania, the town's annual variety show, and has contributed ever since.

And he still plays, for fun, with Mark King, the music teacher at the Music Stand in Markham.

But he finds himself busier and busier with Spinners: "It started as a weekend thing, but now it's the main thing."

He's booked as far ahead as November 1989, as more people hear about him and the job he does.

Jeff claims he's put together around \$4,000 worth of sound equipment, with another \$1,500 tied up in records and tapes. And things are on the move.

"My wife's brother recently started working with me. I'd like to expand to the point where it's

full-time. There's enough work out there," Jeff maintains.

His specialty is music from the 1950s.

"I love doing '50s dances. People are surprised that I know so much about the '50s, but I've studied up on that music," he says.

Jeff believes in giving people what they want.

"When the Barnswallows got everyone up doing the limbo at the Strawberry Festival, I went along with it. Everyone enjoyed it," he adds.

He recalls how the Festival was a time of non-stop work for him. He was responsible for the sound at various functions, such as the outdoor church service Sunday morning.

"I didn't get to bed until 2 a.m. and I was back at the park at eight in the morning setting up equipment."

He admits he'd like to have an occasional weekend off, "but I can't turn the customers away."

He derives a great deal of satisfaction from seeing people enjoy themselves at functions where he works.

"It was great at the Greens New Year's party," he says. "Even the kitchen staff were out dancing."

"There's a great sense of accomplishment when the dance is over and everyone has had fun," he adds.



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