

Busy time of year

Smells aplenty at Stouffville Bakery

By KATE GILDERDALE
While the Stouffville Bakery never seems to be short of appreciative customers this is certainly the busiest season.

Gerhard and Peter Hartung have owned the popular facility, which was completely remodelled this year, since 1969. The brothers also own a satellite store in Richmond Hill. "We do wholesale on the side for golf clubs, restaurants and delicatessens," notes Gerhard.

The large area at the back of the store houses an enormous oven, with 11 "travelling" shelves, which are filled to the brim with Christmas cakes these days.

"We do about 10,000 lbs of Christmas cakes," Gerhard estimates. "That's over 5,000 cakes." The cakes are attractively packaged in festive tins.

In addition to retail sales, the bakery supplies cakes which are used for fund raising by organizations such as the Cubs and Beavers.

"We also ship some of our cakes out," noted Gerhard. One order, sent by a Stouffville couple to their son, travels all the way to the Northwest Territories. "We send a Christmas cake out there every year."

Some go to Ottawa and some go to Florida. "People who winter down there leave their orders with us in October," he explains.

Ten years ago, the Bakery started making gingerbread houses. "We made 10. Today it's over 300 and everybody who works here helps to make them." Each one is handmade and is therefore unique, he points out.

"We start putting them together at the beginning of November," says Gerhard. "They go on display and that's when people remember to put orders in."

The houses are sold right up until Christmas. Another Christmas favorite is the pure butter shortbread. "We go through 10 cases of butter, that's 500 lbs, when we make our shortbread."

All goods baked on the premises are completely free of additives. "Many of our customers don't like preservatives, so we don't use them," he states. "We only use the best ingredients."

The bakery, which has served Stouffville since 1890, currently employs a total of about 30 full and part-time staff.

One of the long-time employees is Roberta Feaver. "She's been with us 12 years," comments Gerhard. "She's a real asset to the business."

On a recent afternoon, a party of seniors is due to arrive from the city by bus, to do some out-of-town shopping, and Roberta is busy getting ready for their arrival.

Gerhard is pleased with the way business is going at the rebuilt bakery. Although the new store is smaller than its predecessor, "we're utilizing our space to grow more retail business on Stouffville's Main St.," he explains.

"The tenants in the renovated block are very happy with their location and with business."

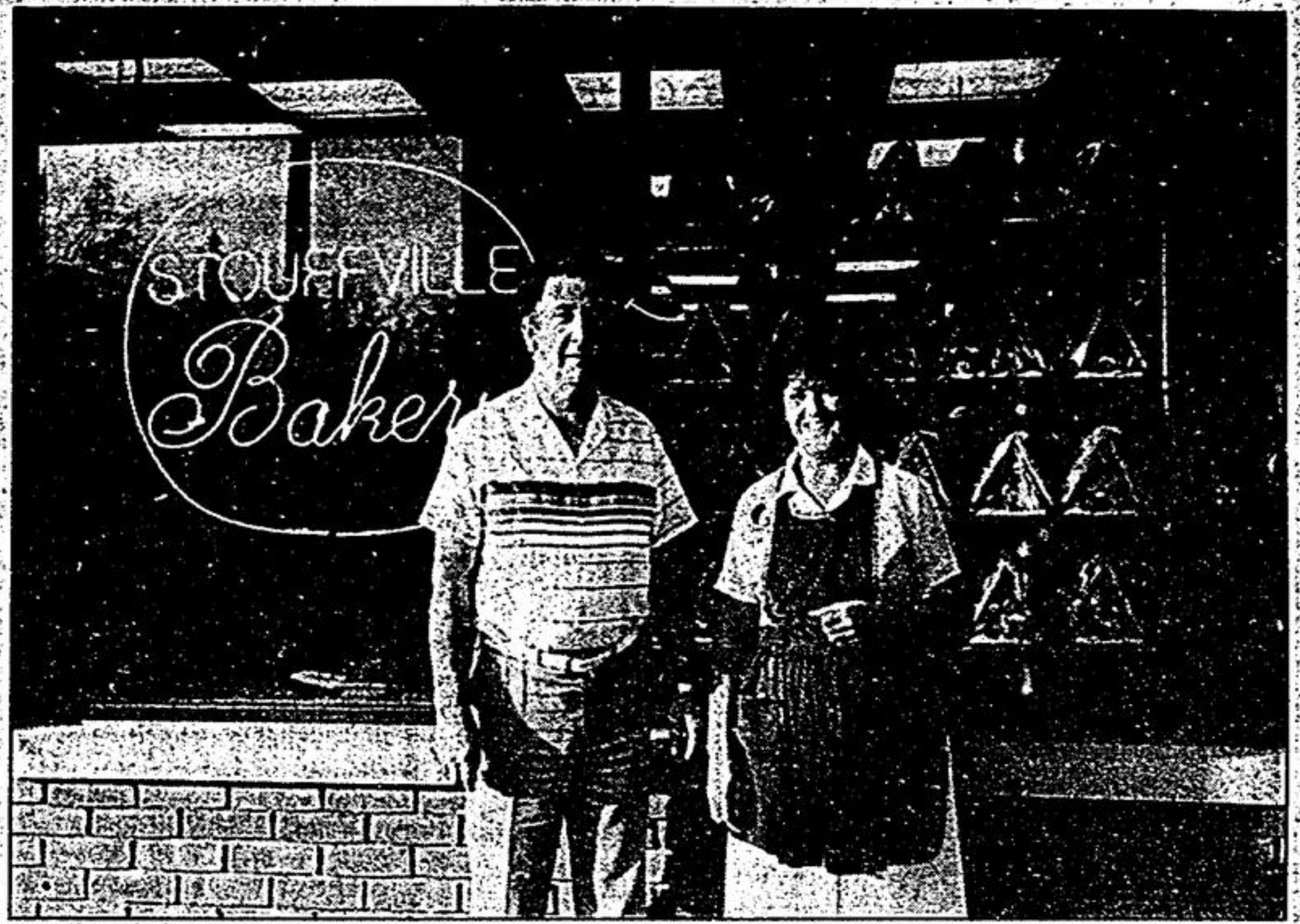


Photo: KATE GILDERDALE

Stouffville Bakery owner Gerhard Hartung (left) and longtime employee Roberta Feaver are busy these days preparing for Christmas. Christmas cakes and gingerbread houses are a specialty.

Santa Claus comes to town on Saturday

It's official. Santa Claus is coming to town. And as usual, he's doing it in style, preceded by more than 30 floats, six bands and a circusful of clowns.

On Saturday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m., the big parade starts out at the corner of Stouffer and Main Streets, working its way west towards Card's Hardware.

This year's theme is Christmas of the Future. Old favorites and newcomers will take part in the parade. It promises to be a spectacular event.

Among local dignitaries joining the parade will be newly-elected area MP Bill Attewell, local MPP

Bill Ballinger, Mayor Fran Sainsbury and Regional Chairman Eldred King.

This year's Miss Whitchurch-Stouffville, Melinda Lehman, and Citizen of the Year Jean Barkey will also be there.

The difficult task of judging the floats falls to Neil Patrick, of Neil Patrick Motors, newly-elected Ward 5 Councillor Doug Alles and Cathy Richardson from the town's recreation department.

If previous years are anything to go by, this is a parade not to be missed. As organizer Stan Szymkow says, "It's going to be a great day."

Victorian tea at Museum

VANDORF — The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and volunteer staff will be all decked out in traditional attire for the annual Victorian Tea and Craft Sale, Thurs., Dec. 1.

The event, hosted by Friends of the Museum, extends from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The menu will feature Christmas pudding and a variety of goodies.

An adjacent building will offer home-baking and crafts.

Admission is \$3.50 per person.

The Museum is located on the west side of Woodbine Avenue in Vandorf.

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