

# Doll creations not child's play

By JIM THOMAS  
 Forty-four smiling faces comprise a welcoming committee inside the lobby at Parkview Village, Ninth Line South, Stouffville.

Beautiful dolls, all dressed up and ready to go, are the product of Mabel Hanson. With the help of husband Joe, a retired OPP Inspector, she completed her model family last winter while on vacation in Florida.

It all began when a speaker representing New Horizons came to Parkview. It started Mabel thinking: "What can I do?"

Intensely interested in both children and crafts, Mabel decided to combine the two loves and began making dolls.

While Joe scouted various flea markets and second-hand stores for parts, Mabel began putting the pieces together.

"It sort of snowballed," she explains. Prior to returning home, there was hardly room to turn around — dolls all over the place.

The 44 'passengers' crossed the US-Canada border without incident. Joe and Mabel declared the five cartons as 'miscellaneous'.

"They didn't question us and fortunately didn't search us," Mabel says with a smile.

"Joe was wonderful," Mabel enthuses. "He became excited when he saw the project develop. The dolls kind of took over."

She describes her husband as an early bird and herself as a night hawk: "I'd work away long after he'd gone to bed," she explains.

Mabel doesn't regard the project as hers, but Parkview's. "I want it to be an ongoing thing," she says, "with Parkview

doing with them as they see fit."

Each doll is dressed in two layers of clothing.

"The more a doll has on, the better a child likes it," she notes.

Distribution won't begin until after the Parkview Village bazaar, April 29.

Mabel admits both she and her husband enjoy keeping busy.

"We may wear out, but we won't rust out," she laughs.

Meanwhile, 44 glorious smiles shine forth from a showcase in the Parkview Village lobby. The welcoming committee doesn't say a word. Words aren't necessary. The deed speaks for itself.

It's a labor of love.



Mabel Hanson is proud of the model family she's created. No less than 44 smiling dolls, made with various parts and little bit of ingenuity, are almost ready for distribution in the community. The hobby is a labor of love for Mrs. Hanson.



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