

Bunny Burton sells business to explore interests

By Bruce Stapley
Correspondent
When Bunny Burton became the first girl ever to take drafting and woodworking at Toronto's

Danforth Tech in the 1950s, she was simply serving notice she intended to take an unorthodox path through life. Now, 30 years later, the Dor-

man Dr., Stouffville resident is still surprising people with her willingness to try anything once, and to make room for as many activities as she possibly can in her life.

Bunny sold her business of nine years, Bunny's Flowers, to an employee earlier this month.

The reason? She claims the store was getting in the way of her other interests.

"I had to sell the store to get the time to do all the things I wanted to do."

And those activities include her interest in the balloon and party business, helping a local caterer, teaching line dancing to seniors at Parkview Home as well as waiting to the students at Stouffville District Secondary School, and helping husband Bruce with his home renovation projects.

"I'm the best dry wall person around," claims Bunny. "I can wield a saw and a hammer. I'd never lack for a job."

Bunny's multi-faceted career started with a stint at General Electric, working in the drafting office for a few years in the 1950s.

"But it was a man's world in that company then. It was just too tough so I got out."

She then went to work in the advertising department at Bell Canada, helping put together Yellow Pages ads.

She married Bruce in 1957, had a baby every year for the next



Former florist owner Bunny Burton has sold her business to pursue other interests. She and her husband may teach ballroom dancing lessons and she's interested in learning computer technology. With her varied interests, she's sure to keep busy.

three years, and stayed home to raise them for a few years.

But she charged right back into the work world when a friend, Stouffville's Bob Lewis, asked her to help him with a floral arrangement for a wedding.

"Bob taught me how to arrange the flowers. I got so excited about it I went to Guelph to take a florists' course."

She recalls how she told them she'd come back to teach the course some day after she graduated. And like anything else Bunny ever set her mind to, she was true to her word.

teaching her new found area of expertise for three years in the early 1970s.

She opened up her first flower shop, Lauralea, in Richmond Hill in 1969, then became the first lady president of a Flowers Canada chapter, taking over as head of the Toronto association.

She opened Bunny's Flowers in Stouffville in 1980. Her extra-curricular activities included teaching floral arrangement at the local high school, helping prepare floats for the Grey Cup Parade in Toronto, as well as assisting with every parade in Stouffville.

A tireless volunteer, Bunny has sponsored and arranged each Miss Whitechurch-Stouffville pageant, and her contributions to

Music Mania are significant.

Bunny and Bruce took ballroom dancing in 1979, earning their Bronze in latin and ballroom dancing, then their silver in latin.

"We were hoping to teach dancing lessons when we retired," says Bunny, adding that they were asked to teach line dancing at Parkview seniors residence two years ago.

And is there anything she still wants to try?

"One thing I want to learn is computers. I bought a used one in Florida."

And if the past is any indication of her determination and her ability to acquire new skills, Bunny Burton will be a computer whiz within weeks.

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