



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

Alicia Hudson of the Conscientious Cookie Bakery in Stouffville poses with her oatmeal cookies. The George Brown College business student is taking part in the York Region Young Entrepreneur program. Her allergen-free baked goods are sold locally.

Smart cookie has sweet dreams for bakery

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Alicia Hudson received a huge boost towards owning and operating her own bakery when she was accepted into the York Region Small Business Enterprise summer company program this year.

Through the program, she received start-up capital, which enabled her to launch the home-based Conscientious Cookie Bakery.

She makes gluten-free and vegan cookies, which are available at the Red Bulb and Stouffville Farmers' Market, as well as through her website <http://conscientiouscookie.com>

Hudson, 20, first attempted vegan and gluten-free baking about six years ago because she is lactose intolerant, as were

some of her friends, while other friends had gluten allergies.

"I didn't have that natural talent off the bat," the third-year George Brown College business administration student said.

Hudson, 20, first attempted vegan and gluten-free baking about six years ago because she is lactose intolerant...

"Things just did not turn out well at all," she admitted.

But Hudson kept experimenting with various gluten-free flours and vegan alternatives. Soon, she had a blog filled with recipes

for pancakes, muffins, cupcakes and cakes, as well as cookies.

Now, her creations come about by "just playing around. Once you're familiar with gluten-free baking or vegan baking, it just becomes second nature," she said.

Her summer company currently provides four flavours of cookies – chocolate chip, double chocolate chip, muesli and plain oatmeal.

Her goal is to offer more seasonal cookies throughout the year and expand her product line.

Which is why, come this September, Hudson will go back to school part time.

In three years, she hopes to have her own storefront bakery, but it likely won't be in Whitchurch-Stouffville because "the market isn't quite big enough".

CARS, YARDS TOP YOUR COMPLAINTS, STOUFFVILLE

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville bylaw officers tackle calls related to property standards/clean yards and parking on a daily basis, according to Linda Mainprize, senior bylaw officer for the municipality.

Residents also call the bylaw officers roughly twice a week regarding fences and what their rights are, in particular do they have to pay when a neighbour wants to erect a fence and they don't.

Property standards/clean yard complaints typically have to do with derelict homes or debris in yards, according to Mainprize.

SIGNS, NOISE

Residents also complain when cars are left on the road too long.

These complaints aren't too different than what Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury bylaw officers have to deal with.

The most common complaints in those municipalities include:

- Property standards, including long grass, debris and garbage on lawns, fence regulations, snow clearance, dilapidated roofs and eavestroughs
- Parking complaints, ranging from the obstruction of driveways to parking ticket inquiries
- Zoning, running businesses on residential property
- Signage, illegal signs or erecting a sign without a permit
- Noise, either complaints, exemptions or inquiries regarding the current rules surrounding noise
- Case-by-case infractions, such as storing a trailer in a residential driveway
- Animal control, dogs and cats at large, excessive barking and biting

with files from Teresa Latchford

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