

Muskoka Mosaic: Introducing Janice Berkenmeier



READY TO HELP: Janice Berkenmeier, owner of Florence's Flowers on Main Street, stands in front of a store display, ready to help customers express themselves with flowers.

By Paula Boon

Janice Berkenmeier loves connecting with others, which is why she enjoys her work.

"We help people express themselves, and we try to do it with respect and care," says the owner of Florence's Flowers. "To help our customers, I often get into conversation with people at the front counter – find out where they're from, where they've been and why they're here. It gives me a better understanding to do my job."

One of Berkenmeier's favourite things is making deliveries. "People always appreciate it so much. Flowers give you a real lift," she says. "It's especially nice to take flowers to people I may know. I seem to know a lot of people, so it's a personal visit as well."

As a member of the Downtown Huntsville Business Improvement Association, Berkenmeier is proud of how beautification projects on Main Street foster feelings of community and civic pride. "There's a good feeling downtown and people often come in and comment how lovely it is," she says.

To keep that feeling, says Berkenmeier, we all need to take responsibility for our own surroundings. "When I'm outside the shop tidying, people driving by will often

call out greetings and comments," she says. "I enjoy that relationship with people, when they don't just think of me as the person behind the counter."

Born in Blackpool, England, Berkenmeier came to Canada in 1950 at age five. Her family spent eight years in Rosseau, then moved to Huntsville, where her parents looked after the property of the Timber Bay resort on Fairy Lake. She attended Riverside Public School and then Huntsville High School.

After high school, she worked long enough to save up the money to return to England, where she got a job at a temp agency and stayed for two years. "It was a wonderful experience to meet different people and talk to them," she says.

While in England, Berkenmeier travelled to Spain on holiday and met her now-husband Larry, who was on leave from his post with the US navy in London. When Larry got out of the service in 1968, they came to Huntsville to be married.

The couple lived in Kansas for five years, during which time their daughter Jennifer was born. "Kansas was fine, but it was very flat – not a lot of trees, no rocks, no lakes. Nothing like we have here," says Berkenmeier. "There's nothing like Muskoka. I took it for granted growing up. It was just home.

But as I saw other places I appreciated it more."

The family returned to Huntsville in 1973, and Berkenmeier started working at Florence's Flowers in 1981. Six years later, she and Larry bought the store.

One challenge of owning this particular kind of business is that it is difficult to get away for a holiday. "Our inventory and our customers require ongoing care, so we must be available to them," says Berkenmeier. "An unexpected event can change your personal plans, so you take your pleasure from people. Ten minutes with a friend is like a break."

After 28 busy years, Berkenmeier is looking forward to her eventual retirement, when she will have time to spend in the garden, be with her two granddaughters, do

projects around the house, go to the theatre, and help organize community events.

The thing she's looking forward to doing most, though, is... nothing. "I want to get up in the morning, sit and have a coffee, watch the birds in the birdfeeder and read the newspaper," says Berkenmeier. "That will be nice. While I have enjoyed helping people with their emotional needs, I look forward to being on the other side of the counter."

In the meantime, she will continue to relish her daily interactions with customers. "We all need to step back a bit," Berkenmeier says. "It's okay to be online and instant, but we have to take the time to communicate face to face."

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A special thank-you is extended to **Sean Connon** and the **MOOSE FM** team for the success of our **Radiothon**. Because of the opportunity that was extended by **MOOSE FM**, we were able to raise over \$13,000 to help the animals in our care. Thanks once again to our community for your support!



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PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD



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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18, AS AMENDED, AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES AT **4 RAYNOR ISLAND**, TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, NOW IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays intends to designate these lands and premises as being of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, as amended.

For further information and for a copy of the full Notice of Intention to Designate, please visit www.lakeofbays.on.ca/public_notices.htm or contact Carrie Sykes, (705) 635-2272, ext 236 (deputyclerk@lakeofbays.on.ca)

Objections to the proposed designation must be received by the Clerk of the Township of Lake of Bays, 1012 Dwight Beach Rd, Dwight, Ontario P0A 1H0 by Registered Mail or hand-delivered together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts, not later than **4:00 p.m.** on the **21st day of September, 2009**.

Library Hours of Operation



DWIGHT LIBRARY

705-635-3319

E-mail: phurley@vianet.on.ca

Tuesday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. • Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

BAYSVILLE LIBRARY

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Thursday: Noon - 7 p.m. • Friday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Visit us at www.lakeofbays.on.ca



Armour, Ryerson and Burk's Falls Agricultural Society 128th

FALL FAIR

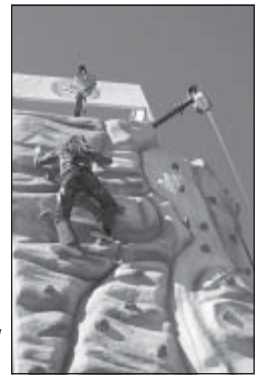
on Labour Day Weekend
Sunday, September 6, Monday September 7
SUNDAY, SEPT. 6

INSIDE ARENA

All day Manitowabing Taxidermy display
12:30 p.m. Northern Exposure Band
1:30 p.m. Celtic Group
2:00 p.m. Northern Exposure Band
3:00 p.m. Celtic Group

OUTSIDE AND ON GROUNDS

10:00 a.m. English Horse Show
11:30 a.m. Children's activities, games and races all day
12 noon Stephen Morrin - Bird Calls
1:00 p.m. Jim Creasor on stage - Pipeband
2:00 p.m. Seavenger Hunt



MONDAY, SEPT. 7

INSIDE ARENA

All day Muskoka Wildlife Centre
12 noon Klassic Country
1:00 p.m. Northern Exposure Band
2:00 p.m. Klassic Country
3:00 p.m. Northern Exposure Band
4:00 p.m. Ticket draws



OUTSIDE AND ON GROUNDS

10:00 a.m. Western Horse Show
11:00 a.m. Jason Taylor - Karaoke
11:30 a.m. Children's activities, games and races all day
12 noon Heavy Horse Show, followed by Horse Pull
12 noon Jam Sandwich
12 noon Jim Creasor on stage
1:00 p.m. Gibbings Family Band on stage
3:00 p.m. Gibbings Family Band on stage

SUNDAY & MONDAY - ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES
Maple the Cow • Art Show in the arena • Concessions of crafts, food and much more • Manitowabing Taxidermy display • Dunk tank • Birdhouse building - gem dig • Lean on Me Petting Zoo

MONDAY - ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES
Poultry Judging & Show • Barry Grant Sheep Display