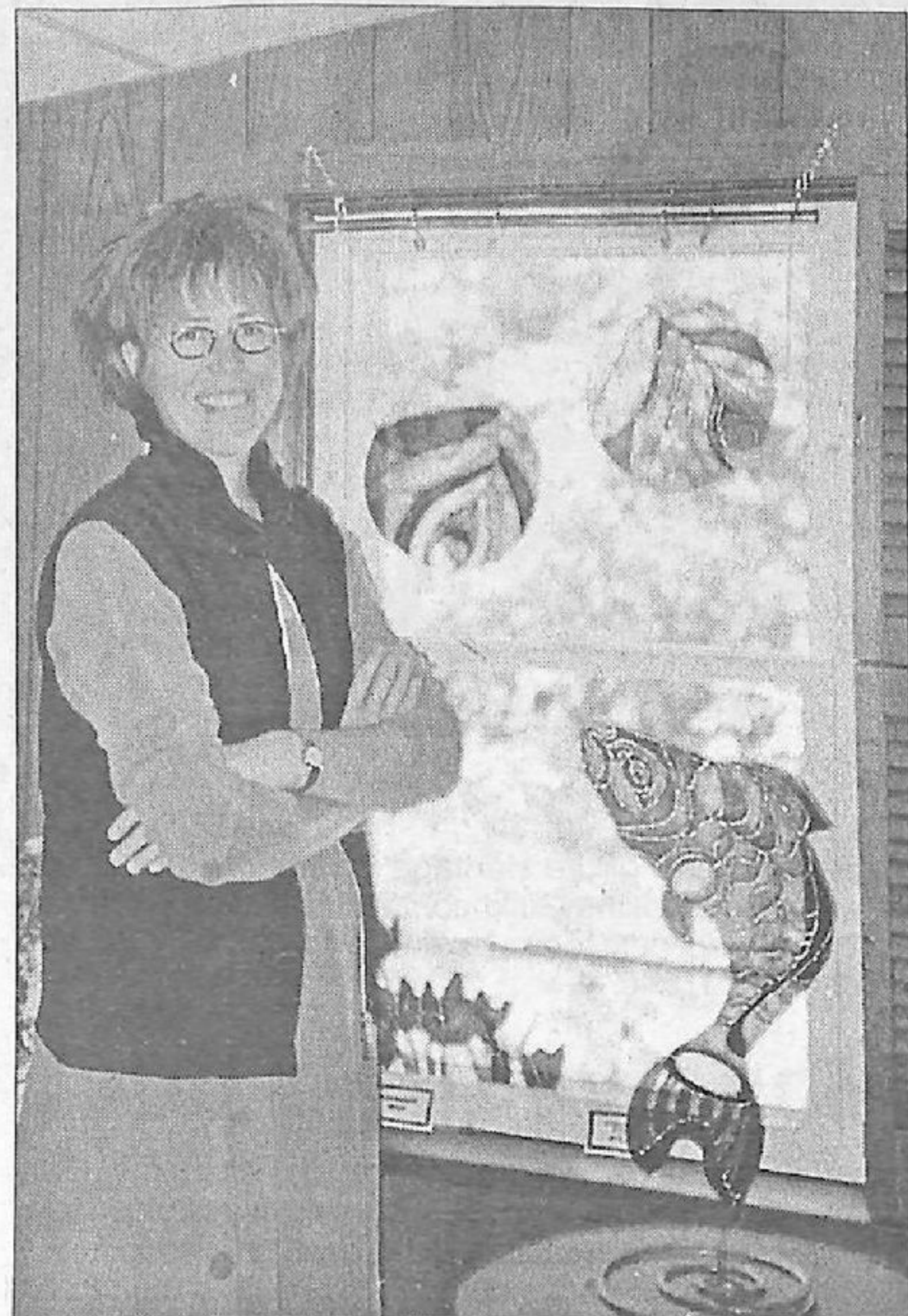


COMMUNITY



Potter Liz Willoughby works with traditional Japanese and Oriental glazes for her handcrafted clay works. "My thing is teapots," she admits of her home-based artistry fired in the gas kiln she always dreamed of having.



Photos by Mandy Martin

Having completed five large stained glass commissions in a row, artist Kathie Lloyd is now ready to work on new projects and designs at her studio in Haldimand Township. Her innovative pieces range from miniature pressed flower" sun-catchers to large abstract and free-form designs, like the fish on the table to her right. She is also an accomplished painter and gardener.

On tour

Hundreds flock to enjoy fourth annual studio tours

BY MANDY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

The fourth annual Northumberland Hills Artisans Studio Tours pulled hundreds of people onto byways and back roads of the county last weekend.

"Apparently, it's going very well," Donna Cane, steering committee member reported Sunday. "The several people I have talked to thus far report a lot more local visitors this year, which they're very pleased about."

With the studios of 27 county artisans featured for public visits Saturday and Sunday, there was no shortage of variety and opportunity to meet and visit the working centres.

Northumberland has an abundance of artisans and craftspeople to draw from,

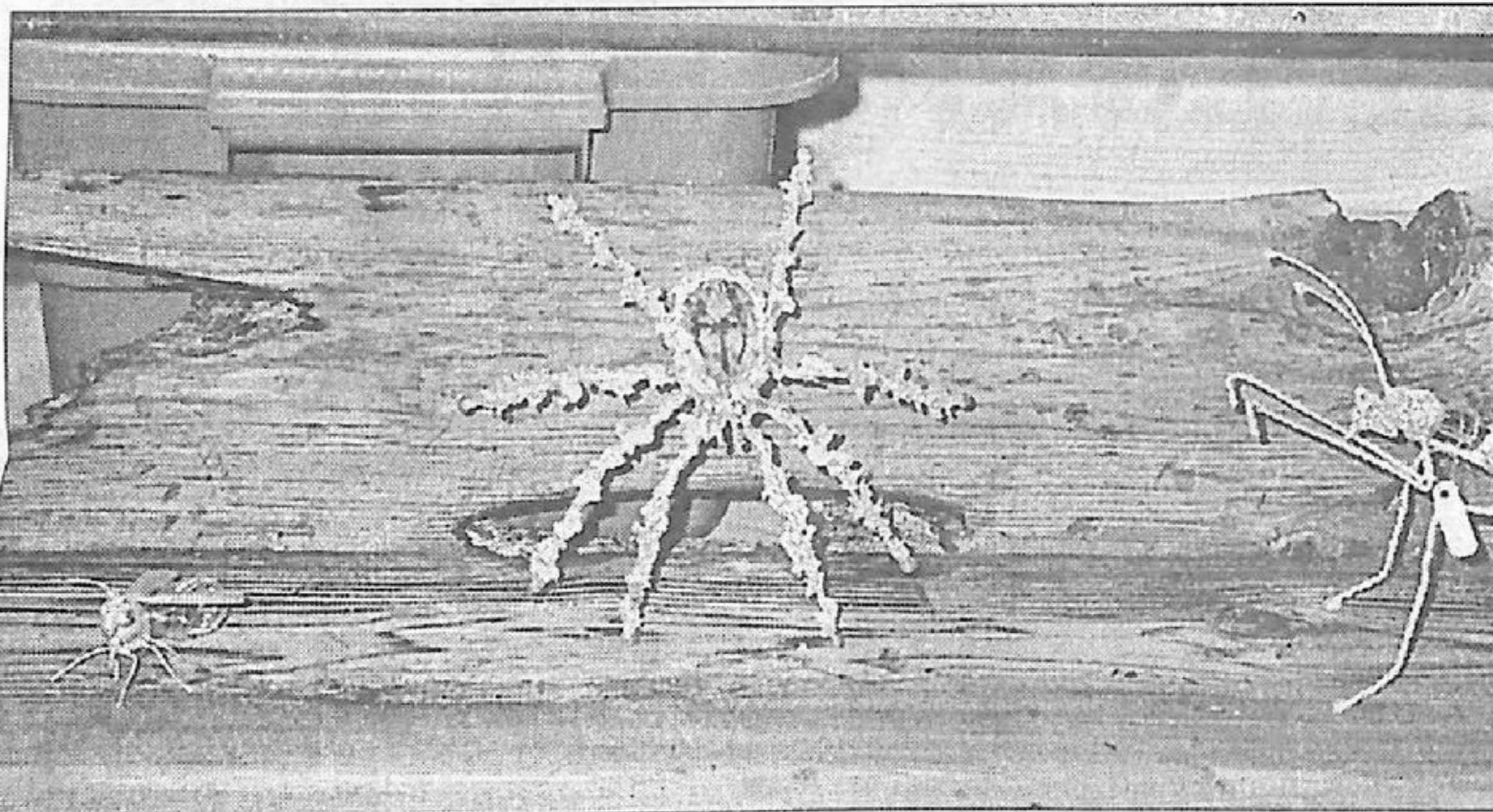
Ms. Cane reports.

"Each year, we have a balance of 50 per cent repeat studios and 50 per cent new artists to the area. That way, new people can be introduced, and the longer-term residents or people who have been on before then have the chance to go on the tour themselves."

If selected for the fall tour program, the artist commits to being on-site to meet and talk with visitors throughout the two-day event. Each site was marked with balloons and roadside directional signs.

"This year, for the first time, we added the performing arts to the mix. The Fourth Line Theatre performed at a dinner theatre evening Saturday night at Victoria Hall. It was very well received, and the theatre was pleased, too. It's wonderful to see these heritage buildings used in these ways, adapted for these events."

"The vision of the Arts Council of Northumberland



Antique chandelier crystals inspired Chris Greatrex to create insects incorporating the pieces of glass in his crafted metal shapes. The result: delicate and delightful spiders, praying mantis, fireflies, grasshoppers and butterflies.

is that the arts in Northumberland event each fall will be bigger and more spectacular," Ms. Cane outlines. "That's why the performing arts fit so well into the concept this year."

With hundreds of visitors pulled into the county for the special event, there are other economic benefits, Ms. Cane quickly notes. "There's never enough accommodation or eating facilities for everyone. That's why it's so important restaurants and accommodation facilities come forward and identify themselves. We list places to eat and stay on the back of the studio tour brochure. Already, we've had people calling or speaking to us to say they want to be a part of the tour next year."

"I'm so excited about what's happening (in the county) now. It's building, it's growing. There is so much here in Northumberland County and we are only

65 miles from Toronto. We are forming partnerships with eating and accommodation facilities, too. With all the people who come to the county to visit the artists, for the house tours and special events, we need all the accommodation and eating establishments."

Last weekend's studio tour is hardly a one-off event, as far as she's concerned.

"People keep the tour brochure which lists the artists and their phone numbers. They refer to it throughout the year on other occa-



Colborne Art Gallery members Irene Osborne, left, and Audrey Caryl, right, assisted meeting public visitors Saturday morning at the Cramahe Township studio of John and Heather Stubbs.

sions. I know Astrid Hudson that the county is working very, very hard on motorcoach tour packages. This October, we plan to introduce an artisans studio package for motorcoaches — a mix and match concept incorporating any number of stops, - from four up to 15.

"We're taking the concept to the foreign markets this fall."

Artisans who indicate they are available for studio visits by groups and smaller tourist groups, are listed in reference literature. Ms. Cane knows the concept works. As the proprietor of Victoria Inn at Gore's Landing, she often puts together tour routes for overnight or daytime visitors.

"We've been operating boar cruises up the Otonabee and for the last two Monday's watercolourist Kathryn McHolm (of Hope Township) has been aboard because people indicated they'd like some exposure to a watercolour artists. The group sets up on one area of the deck and can work on techniques in the open scenery."

The annual studio tour is offered at no charge — a startling revelation to a number of public participants who turned up Saturday morning for the tour. One Brighton area couple, intent of glassworks, were delighted they could talk with accomplished glassworks artisans in their workshops and studios - all at no cost.

"Right now, we're working on an event for the Brighton-Colborne area for next spring," Ms. Cane reports of Arts Council of Northumberland plans.

"We're working with the artists who are members of the Colborne Art Gallery putting together a four-day event: The Zen of Seeing. Participants will visit with artists at their studios, go on outings to paint, sketch, and/or talk artistic concepts, visit Presqu'ile, and scenic countryside.

"We have so much here to offer," Ms. Cane enthuses. "Nothing is in isolation anymore."

"One thing builds on another, supports another activity and direction. We're all interconnected. There's room and enough business for everyone."

60th Anniversary



The family of Violet and Leo Peebles cordially invite relatives, friends and neighbours to a tea held in their honour on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary at the Colborne Trinity Anglican Church Saturday October 3 • 2-4 pm Best Wishes Only.

Happy 25th

