

Tour welcomes art lovers

COLBORNE CHRONICLE SEPT 23/99

BY ILANA C. DADDS
STAFF WRITER

Visitors from across southern Ontario and even the U.S. enjoyed the opportunity to visit Northumberland's artists last weekend.

The two-day Northumberland Hills Artisans Studio Tour kicked off its fifth annual show Saturday morning.

Participants got to visit studios, view original creations, chat with the artists, discuss the works, and even purchase or commission a piece.

Stained glass artist Kitty Munro of Cobourg said the turnout was great. She had up to 150 visitors on Saturday alone.

And those visitors had "really great reactions" to both her work and the tour.

She was surprised when her garden received as much attention as her art: her bright studio overlooks the lush back yard of her Abbott Boulevard home.

Talking to visitors about her own designs and the classes she offers is also a treat — many don't realize that they, too, can learn to work with stained glass.

"One of the nicest things I like doing is my own designs," Ms. Munro said, "I truly enjoy what I am doing now — it is a passion."

It's a passion shared by Port Hope artists Ann Young Nicholas, Melanie Browne and Alice Vander Vennen.

The three showed together for the tour, above Furby House Books on Walton Street.

"People like coming up to this space," Ms. Vander Vennen, gesturing to the bright upstairs room filled with art. Outside the unfin-

ished windows is an impressive view of the Ganaraska River.

While not their studio — this was a room under renovations — it was still a perfect spot to display their work to advantage.

Ms. Browne said that it is a privilege and joy to be able to share the products of "what we do so privately the rest of the year," during the tour.

Like Ms. Munro, she finds the feedback from visitors to be both helpful and energizing.

Ms. Browne and Ms. Young Nicholas explain that the tour also offers them the opportunity to assemble their work, and consider it from a new point of view.

Reaction to their work was good and has even culminated in a few sales.

They pointed out that work can usually be purchased directly from the artist: though many people are unaware of the fact until they take the tour or visit a show.



ART IN THE GARDEN: Judith Kreps Hawkins, multimedia sculptor, is framed in the large balcony deck outlook of her studio in Colborne. PHOTO BY MANDY MARTIN



IN THE STUDIO: Sculptor Alastair Grant (above) of Percy Township shared exhibit space with woodturner David Lyon (bottom right) at the John and Heather Stubbs Studio (John and Heather shown center) on County Road 25 south of Castleton, for the September 17 and 18 Northumberland Hills Artisans Studio Tour. Also in the photo below at left is Vickie Grant. PHOTOS BY MANDY MARTIN



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: Lenni Workman of Percy Township was a first-time tour participant. PHOTO BY MANDY MARTIN

