

Woodworkers need a home

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They're enthusiastic and they're growing, but they have no place to work.

The Northumberland Woodworking Club, recently started by Castleton resident Dan Smith needs a place to set up equipment and begin hands-on woodworking.

Word-of-mouth and publicity gained from an article by Pete Fisher in the *Cobourg Star* drew 45 potential members to a meeting in the Colborne Community Centre.

With more than 30 members at its third meeting in May the club continues to thrive, but Smith wants to avoid the fate that befell a similar club in Thunder Bay.

That club started four years ago with 200 members, but interest dwindled when members had no place to work and share their skills. It is virtually defunct now.

The club is looking for a location with about 2000 square feet so that members can work safely.

If they can find a suitable place they will begin to furnish it with tools.

Smith anticipates that ultimately the membership will settle at about 50.

Already he has noticed that a wide spectrum of skills are represented in the current group. Some are novices, others have up to 50 years experience.

They hope to use these skills to work with local groups on projects to help the community.

They have joined with scouts to build birdhouses. Smith would like to see that type of project expanded with members making and donating wooden toys for Christmas toy drives.

The May meeting featured a



The newly-formed Northumberland Woodworking Club members recently toured Colborne's Specialty Lumber operation. At left, Norm O'Neill, in striped shirt, of the custom lumber operation, explains the milling process.

Below, inside the display area, questions are fielded from the floor.

The Woodworking Club is looking for a home. Plans are to hold classes for members and young people interested in learning woodworking skills. Serving residents of Northumberland County, the Club would prefer to locate in the Colborne-Brighton area.

PHOTOS BY BOB OWEN

demonstration of woodcarving. In June Durham Woodworking Club member Frank McPhee made a two-and-a-half hour presentation on routing at the shop of John Kernaghan on Spencer St. in Colborne.

For \$20 a year Smith claims members will learn a wider variety of skills than they might taking a much more expensive course.

And they'll have a lot of fun too - if they can find a place to set up shop.

