

Dian Robinson, Antiques
Appraiser



Junk or treasure? Answer available Feb. 10-

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Do you know how much your valuables are worth?
Me either.

I have inherited a couple of items from my grandmother that everyone tells me are worth a lot of money. (How much is a lot?) In fact, they tell me that my butter dish is so valuable that I shouldn't use it. (So, what do I do with it then? It sits in a cupboard collecting dust.)

My 89-year-old mother-in-law has recently moved into the Empire Living Centre. (And she just loves it there.) So now there is the task of figuring out what valuables she would like to keep, and just how much everything is worth. One would assume that large items, like furniture, are the most valuable. Wrong. Apparently she owns a carpet that is more valuable than her oak dining-room set.

How can you know how much everything is worth? It feels embarrassing to go about getting an appraisal on an item that may be worth something, or may be a piece of junk. My mother recently heard a story that someone received an appraisal on a toaster that was worth \$1,400. A toaster! Something that you think is junk could also be worth a mint.

If you are thinking of selling an older item, I strongly recommend you go about the bother of arranging an appraisal.

I once owned a Barbie doll and a Skipper doll that my older cousin gave me. I didn't have a clue how much they were worth. They weren't in "mint" condition. So, I trusted the collector to offer me a reasonable price for them. Later

I discovered they were the original, first-edition dolls. I lost a lot of money on that one.

I have discovered a painless, cheap, easy way to receive an appraisal on some of my antiques. The Chisholm Women's Institute is sponsoring a "Come and Go" antique appraisal on Feb. 10 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Chisholm United Church, 1469 Chiswick Line in Chisholm Township (just outside of Powassan.)

Dian Robinson, who is accredited as an appraiser through Ashford Institute of Antiques, will give you an appraisal for \$3 per item. (Robinson will not be appraising fine art, and will look at only costume jewelry.)

You can't beat that! If you're worried an item could be a piece of junk that's just old, bring it in a paper bag so no one but Robinson will see it.

If you need someone to help you carry a heavy item, entice him or her to come by mentioning that there are complimentary refreshments.

If you are looking for something to do on a Saturday afternoon, visitors are welcome to watch the joy and delight on people's faces as they discover that their junk is actually valuable. You may discover you own the same valuable "junk," too. Like a \$1,400 toaster. You could even return home with a beautiful quilt — they have a quilt draw at 2 p.m. (For more information or directions to the event, please call 724-2413.)