

# Antique dealer collecting since 10 years old

By SUZANNE HANSON  
Canadians should appreciate the value of their heritage and be proud of their culture and their country. Although Canada is a comparatively young country, there is still much to be admired in its art and furniture, hand-crafted by the early settlers of this country.

Marjorie Larmon of Burgessville is one individual who has recognized the value of the Canadian heritage and as a lifelong antique collector, few are more aware of the beauty of the early Canadian pieces than she.

Mrs. Larmon's interest in antiques was stirred at an early age. "As a child I accompanied my father to auctions to his delight and my mother's chagrin." One of her earliest collections was of teddy bears for which she still has a passion for collecting. "I never had a doll but I did have a teddy bear."

A collector since the age of 10, Mrs. Larmon still has the first item she ever collected, a Portneuf china bowl she bought for 10 cents when she was 10 years old.

The bowl was hand-painted by school children in Scotland but because the design was slightly off-centre, the bowl with others that did not meet the standard, were sent to Canada, said Mrs. Larmon. The bowls now, because they are so rare, are much more valuable.

Mrs. Larmon's antique shop located in the barn on her farm, is an antique collector's heaven. Although it houses an infinite variety of items, Mrs. Larmon is strictly interested in North American pieces.

The farm, which belonged to her father Roy was the Sackrider homestead. Mrs. Larmon purchased the farm

from her mother 12 years ago and had the barn renovated to house her collection of antiques.

"I'm very proud of my collection," she said. It's taken a lot of hard work to find the pieces in her collection but she enjoyed it. There was a time, she said, when she spent her money on antiques instead of luxuries like fine clothes.

"Now I'm able to enjoy both but there were periods of monetary frustration wherein I was compelled to dispose of my cherished, prized possessions in order to continue. It was very frustrating."

Now she is a well-established and a highly-regarded antique dealer. She looks back on her life without regret and comments that

she would not have had it any other way.

"I've had a great life being an antique dealer. It's the greatest life. Look at all the people I meet."

Mrs. Larmon's collection and her knowledge of Canadian antiques has been invaluable to many Canadian restoration projects.

"I have helped Parks Canada with many restorations. I think the greatest one was Fort Garry at Winnipeg." Mrs. Larmon's antique collection has been the source of many of the authentic items used in such restoration projects.

Being an antique collector is much easier today, said Mrs. Larmon. "When I was collecting over 50 years ago, no books were available. I

had a good eye and I knew what I liked." She gradually taught herself what to look for.

"You make some bad mistakes and that smartens you up." The young collectors today are very knowledgeable, she said but there are books now on everything. Prices today, however, are also much higher and items are more difficult to find.

While the items in her barn are all for sale, the house contains her own private collection of furniture, folk art and innumerable other items too precious to her to be parted with.

"I know who owned every piece of furniture in the house," said Mrs. Larmon. "I collect things that I can enjoy and live with."

While some may scoff at the waste of time and money in collecting antiques, Mrs. Larmon not only appreciates them for their aesthetic value but she also knows that antiques increase in monetary value with the passage of time.



## First in collection

Marjorie Larmon, of Burgessville, displays a Portneuf china bowl, the first piece she obtained in her collection of antiques. The bowl was purchased when she was 10 years old for the mere sum of 10 cents.

## GORDON GEORGE WILLS

Gordon George Wills of Burgessville passed away at Woodstock General Hospital on Thursday, December 10, 1981, in his 90th year.

Born in Wainfleet, he was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Wills. He moved to Burgessville in 1923 and operated a general store for around six years, then became a drover and farmer. He attended Burgessville Baptist Church and was a member of St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 104, AF & AM, Norwich.

Surviving are his wife, the former Marion Elizabeth Service; one daughter, Mrs. Fred (Marilyn) Lowes; two sons, Gordon Wills Jr., and David Wills, all of Burgessville; 18 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by a daughter Shirley in 1978 and by a son William in 1942.

Rested at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence, Norwich, where service was held Saturday, December 12, at 2 p.m. conducted by Rev. Keith Daniel of Burgessville Baptist Church.

A solo, Good Morning up There, was sung by Lois Bailey accompanied by her sister Fay Bailey.

Pallbearers were Leonard Cobban, Ronald Clifford, Jim Wills, Ken Wills, Bill Rynard and Ed McFarlane.

Interment in Burgessville Cemetery.

## LAURA ELIZABETH WARBOYS

Mrs. Glen Warboys of Dwight, formerly of Burgessville, passed away at Huntsville Hospital on Saturday, August 8, 1981, in her 73rd year.

She was the former Laura Elizabeth Lowes.

Surviving, besides her husband, are three daughters, Mrs. Leonard (Kathleen) Talbot, Mrs. William (Marie) Service both of Dwight and Mrs. Donald (Carol Ann) Leis of Woodstock; and five sons, Donald Warboys of Norwich, Leif Warboys and John Warboys, both of Burgessville, Robert Warboys and Fred Warboys of Dwight.

She was predeceased by one son Ross Warboys in July 1980.

Resting at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence, Norwich, where service will be held Tuesday, August 11 at 2 p.m. conducted by Rev. Cyril Dyke.

Interment in Burgessville Cemetery.

## FREDERICK MERLE WARBOYS

Frederick Merle Warboys of Dwight, formerly of Burgessville, passed away at Wellesly Hospital, Toronto, on Friday, September 11, 1981, in his 45th year.

Born in East Oxford Township, he was a son of Glen Warboys and the late Laura Warboys. He was employed at Huntsville Timber Products for the past five years. Mr. Warboys was a member of the United Church and a member of the Dwight Oxtonge Snowmobile Association.

Surviving are his father, Glen Warboys of Dwight; three sisters, Mrs. Leonard (Kathleen) Talbot and Mrs. William (Marie) Service, both of Dwight and Mrs. Ronald (Carol Ann) Leis of Woodstock; four brothers, Donald Warboys of Norwich, Lief Warboys and John Warboys, both of Burgessville and Robert Warboys of Dwight; 18 nieces and nephews; and 13 great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was predeceased by his mother in August 1981 and by a brother Ross Warboys in 1980.

Rested at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence, Norwich, where service was held Monday, September 14, at 2 p.m., conducted by Rev. Cyril Dyke of Burgessville United Church.

Pallbearers were Wayne Warboys, Terry Warboys, Kevin Warboys and Gary Warboys, Brian Talbot and Rick Talbot.



## Pig and Plow

Marjorie Larmon's antique shop, The Pig and Plow on the edge of Burgessville, features an infinite variety of early North American furniture and folk art. The shop is named after two pieces in the shop of sentimental value, a wooden pig and antique wooden plow.