



Larry Davidson works at his potter's wheel in preparation for his open house this weekend. The local potter has worked in both England and Japan.

Japan an influence on local potter

Some consider pottery to be merely a craft, like the ashtrey a seven-year-old makes in school. But for others, finely glazed pottery is a work of art.

Craftsman or artisan, Larry Davidson, a local potter, has work admired by many.

Davidson, 30, is a native of Guelph who opened a shop on Highway 7 in Crewsons Corners. He didn't start out as an artist but his interest and love for the craft turned him into a full-time potter.

He said he picked up pottery in his final year as a recreation student at the University of Guelph. He was a social worker in Guelph after graduation while potting for a hobby but said Davidson, wasn't satisfied with his job.

So he became a part-time carpenter and grew more and more involved in pottery. He took courses, travelled and eventually gave up working part-time to devote his attention to his craft.

He moved to his showroom and shop at Crewsons Corners where he lives with his wife and son, and two dogs, two years ago.

Davidson works exclusively with salt glazing—a method of pottery used by the pioneers. There is not much glaze on the pots to begin with but 80 pounds of salt added in the glazing kiln (fired at 2,350 degrees F), turns into gas, which forms the glaze pattern on his pots.

He said his work has the Japanese and English influence. He has also been influenced by historical periods and individual potters. He lived in Wales for a year while his wife was attending school and spent six months working in Mashiko, Japan, only 70 miles from Tokyo.

Mashiko, he said, nestled in a pine forest and rolling hills, is a pottery town with 400 potters practising their art.

He lived next door to one of the best known potters in the world—Shoji Hamada. While Davidson was in Wales, he read about Hamada's work and travels and had wanted to study in Japan. It was Hamada's apprentice Davidson worked for in Mashiko.

Another famous potter, Bernard Leitch from England, who also studied in Japan, was an influence in Davidson's work as well he added.

In Japan, Davidson said, pottery is an art, whereas here it is considered a craft. A simple piece of pottery in Japan might cost \$600, but here Davidson said, no one would pay that much for pottery.

Pottery is making a comeback, he added, since it's premature death at the turn of the century. "People are tired of mass produced products," he said.

Although Davidson has not been besieged by buyers, business is brisk. He said he often gets tourists stopping on their way through or customers in by word of mouth.

He has shown his work at a few galleries including a small show in Toronto recently. But, he added, he hasn't really applied for shows.

He is however, holding an open house this weekend (Nov. 8 and 9), for which he sent out invitations and advertised in Toronto newspapers to bring in more people. It is his first ever open house, although he did receive some notoriety last June when his kiln caught fire.

Davidson has replaced it with a huge propane kiln. He has a small studio in the house filled with pottery ready to be fired in the kiln.

The front porch is the showroom and the rest of the Davidson house is filled with pottery from all over the world, including Portugal. Davidson said

Deep ditches upset Glenlea residents

Glenlea residents aren't happy with the deeper ditches the town has dug in the subdivision.

Residents have been calling two councillors, Terry Grubbe and Ed Wood, complaining about the depth and steep sides of the ditches.

Friday a resident, Bill Cook, 333 Orville Road, attended the ward one councillors drop-in. He described the ditches as "ugly, ugly, ugly."

He asked how he was expected to maintain the front of his property with one side of the ditch nearly vertical. Cook, like other residents, says he won't be able to get a lawn mower down the side of the ditch.

Grubbe noted the town is doing the ditching to solve a drainage problem in the subdivision caused by water freezing under culverts. She added the engineer is talking to residents about their complaints.

Cook said he fears a child will fall in the deep, water filled, ditches and drown.

Wood said in a later interview he too has received complaints from homeowners in the Glenlea area and has discussed the issue with the engineer. During talks with the engineer, Wood noted, it was decided the ditches should be sodded. He added he'd "like to think" his discussions with the engineer helped result in the sod being put down which does improve the appearance of the ditches.

Wood explained residents still aren't satisfied with the condition of the ditches and the problem is still being examined.

Grubbe said many residents are now saying there was no flooding problem last year, but the town received many complaints last spring and the engineer took pictures of the numerous drainage problems in the area. She added the town is solving the drainage problem in the most economical way.

Cook countered the town's ditching program wasn't the cheapest method of solving the drainage situation if the work has to be done again. He said he and his

neighbor spend a lot of time and money on maintenance of their own properties and don't know how they'll keep the ditches neat and tidy.

Grubbe noted within five years the subdivision streets will be reconstructed with storm sewers, curbs, and gutters. The town brought in a backhoe to dig the ditches deeper. The side adjacent to private property is very steep while the side by the road is more gently sloped.

No study condominium taxes

Halton Hills doesn't think there is a need to study condominium taxes.

Monday Halton Hills council decided to receive and file a report from the South Ontario Condominium Association, of which the Halton Condominium Association is a member, which called for a task force to probe condominium taxes.

Councillor Ross Knechtel didn't think the report should be simply received and filed. He noted there are instances, including some in Halton Hills, where condominium home values have dropped but taxes haven't been reduced.

The report could be sent to the budget committee next year or the market value assessment review committee for study, Councillor Russ Miller suggested.

According to Councillor George Malby condominium owners could go to court of revision to have their assessment adjusted and taxes



It seemed St. Alban's hall was hit by a blizzard Saturday during the annual Snowflake sales. Bargain seekers jammed the hall to enjoy many of the crafts and games for sale, including this knitted baby cape and hat, held by Mrs. Willa Hargrave, left, and Mrs. Mabel Denny, right.

FRENCH IMMERSION

THE HALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Applications are now being received for Grade 1 and Grade 7 French Immersion Programs starting in September 1981. Information and application forms can be obtained from any Halton elementary school. Applications must be returned to the school by January 26, 1981.

Information meetings to explain the program will be held:

- November 12, 7:30 p.m. Halton Board of Education, 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington
- November 18, 7:30 p.m. Centennial Middle School, 233 Dolreux Boulevard, Georgetown
- November 25, 7:30 p.m. Queen Elizabeth Park School, 2301 Yolanda Drive, Oakville
- November 26, 7:30 p.m. Martin Street P.S., 184 Martin Street, Milton

Bill Herd, Chairman; E.S. Lavender, Director

Legion happenings

Kevin Conroy PRO Br. 197.

Comrade President Pat Waddle wishes to remind all members of their obligation in observing Remembrance Day.

The parade will form at the Acton post office between 10:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The cenotaph service will begin at 11:00 a.m. and we will then proceed into the United Church for a service.

Tickets are available at the bar for the Luncheon to be held in the Legion auditorium at 2 p.m.

Poppy crews will be busy canvassing the Acton area during the next few days. Comrade Ed Footitt and his committee are busy organizing the event and we must congratulate those members for the excellent display in the Acton Home Furnishings window.

The Branch has received the Canadian Red Cross Society citation in recognition and appreciation of continued enthusiasm and outstanding support of the blood donor service. Our Ladies' Auxiliary have worked on this project for many years and indeed deserve this recognition.

At a recent executive meeting it was agreed that all fraternal members who re-applied for membership in the Branch be accepted for the year 1981.

The executive agreed not to take advantage of the LLBO application to open the Branch on Grey Cup Sunday. On the rare occasion when the Branch is open on a Sunday it is generally a family day or some form of service.

The Beef Draw Tickets are going well and don't forget that the draw is on November 22 and your ticket is admission to the dance that night.

Comrade Jim Higgins (English) is reviewing several suggestions as to what to do with the excess of beer mugs, sauerkraut and sausage from the Octoberfest.


The executive agreed to an application from Scouter Bill Inglis of the 1st Acton Cub Pack to use the auditorium for the Kub Kar Rally.

We wish to remind members that in November there will be Saturday night entertainment instead of Friday night.

All committee chairmen are reminded that a Bulletin will be put together in the next week so please let me have your reports. I will try to get down to the branch at least one night next week and pick them up from the notice board.

RE-ELECT

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For information

'The Hiding Place' at Baptist Church

The story of a Nazi concentration camp survivor will be told at Acton Baptist Church Sunday November 9 when the film *The Hiding Place* is shown at 7 p.m.

The book on which the film is based was written by Corrie ten Boom about the experience of her family in occupied Holland.

Becoming involved in the Dutch underground, hiding and aiding the escape of Jews during Nazi occupation in World War II, the family were taken prisoner and sent to the dreaded camp "Ravensbruck".

The book *The Hiding Place* has sold millions of copies.

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