



Suzanne St. Amour makes a functional line of knives as well as a functional line. They are all on display and for sale at her Olstone House craft store in Hillsburgh, open Friday-Sunday, June-December. St. Amour, the only woman cutler in Canada, signs each piece she makes. She commissions other craftspeople to design and make display and carrying boxes for her cutlery. One knife takes from one to two days to make in her studio attached to the store. St. Amour also makes jewellery to sell in her store.

## Female cutler has to be really sharp

Suzanne St. Amour, craftsman and only woman cutler in Canada, has embarked on her second year as owner and proprietor of the seasonal Oldstore Crafts in Hillsburgh. St. Amour's store, situated in the front of her house and adjacent to her studio, displays ceramics, blown glass, weaving, and textile surface design by trained craftsmen like Daniel Crichton and Marja Almquist, as well as jewellery and knives she makes in her studio.

Cutlery, people who handcraft cutlery and predominantly knives, are usually men because of people's attitudes toward knives, St. Amour says.

"People think of knives as weaponry, but knives can be tools, too," she points out. It often surfaces at knife shows when people address questions to her husband. "There's a definite social prejudice involved," she says. "People find it hard to deal with."

St. Amour makes a functional line of cutlery such as kitchen knives, skinning and hunting knives, but she also makes a non-functional line that gives her an outlet for her artistic talents. These are show knives

that are not to use because of their shape or their lack of a handle to grip.

A graduate of Sheridan College's School of Crafts and Design she branched off from making jewellery to making cutlery after apprenticing with Adam Smith, an established knife-maker in Toronto, and, "one of the foremost cutlers in Canada," says St. Amour.

"I like the challenge of being able to make something in metal that functions and it's a challenge to stay within the limitations of the function," she says.

That's why she became a cutler three years ago after graduating in 1978 and making jewellery for three years.

"As a craftsperson I have a need to make things for other people to use," she says. "I derive a great pleasure knowing someone is going to use something I made."

There are 19 steps she takes to make one knife. It could take her anywhere from one day (eight hours) to two and a half days (20 hours).

She gives a lifetime guarantee to the original owners of the knife provided it is used properly. She uses exotic hardwoods

for the handles, primarily coco-bolo wood. Coco-bolo wood is oily, so it does not dry out and holds its polish.

She uses steel which can only be bought from one company in the United States and was originally designed for the hot engine of the Boeing 747 airplane.

As a result her knives need sharpening only 1/4 as much as an average commercial knife.

Her prices range from \$65 for a wallet knife to \$500 for the average show piece.

Last month she received word that she will be getting a craftsman grant from the Ontario Arts Council for \$1,200.

She began entering her cutlery in shows last year and recently was honored by having two of her pieces selected to be judged in the Metal Arts Guild Show. Only 80 pieces out of 220 invited applicants were chosen.

She has sold her work to people as far away as California, Sweden and the North West Territories.

The North West Territories is a promising potential market, she says.

## Special unit for traffic

The summer months are the worst for traffic deaths, said a Halton regional police spokesman.

The Halton force will be setting up a special unit to enforce traffic laws full-time which will emphasize the control of drunk driving.

The unit, stemming from the success of the RIDE program during the Christmas season, will consist of one sergeant and four constables.

The unit will begin to operate some time this summer.

Recent OPP statistics broken down by month support the regional force's findings that summer months are the worst for traffic accidents.

Ontario traffic deaths in July, 1982, totalled 137. July was the worst month for

auto fatalities in 1980, 1981, and 1982. In 1979 August was the worst, with 187 deaths.

In the months of June through to November, 1979-82, deaths numbered more than 100.

In comparison, in the months of January to April 1982, deaths have not numbered more than 72.

On the whole traffic fatalities went down in number between 1979 and 1982 by 422.

There were less deaths in 1982 in comparison to previous years, in every month except October when the increase from 1981 to 1982 was three.

All together there were 24 collisions in Halton in 1983 and 26 people were killed. This year there have been six collisions in which 11 people have been killed.

## Council briefs

### Drainage loan

The Town has approved an application by James and Jean Brown of RR 5 Milton for a \$9,500 loan under the Tile Drainage Act subject to the money being available from Ontario's Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The couple plans a \$15,835 drainage system to empty 11 hectares of their property.

### Trailer use okayed

Garnet Howden of Lot 1 Concession 7 has received Council's permission to continue using a trailer home on his property while his home is being reconstructed following a fire last year. Council granted a 60-day extension for the trailer, which would have been removed by June 19 according to the previous agreement.

### Official Plan work

While Ontario's Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has commended the authors of the Halton Hills Official Plan for its quality, deliberations continue between Town and Ministry staff. Council recently authorized staff to review several proposed modifications to the plan and to decide on the method of public participation in the final approval process.

## Clean-ups at salvage yards

All salvage yard operators are trying to clean up their operation and conform to the requirements of the Town. Bylaw Enforcement Officer Jack Lusty told Halton Hills council Monday night.

He recommended the renewal of the licence immediately to Halton Hills Collision and Lee's Auto Wreckers, and an updated report at the next meeting on Halton Auto Wreckers, Brown's Auto Wreckers, York Auto Wreckers and Watson Auto Wreckers.

He noted each of the four had done repair work to their fences but were not completed

so he wanted to give them time to do so.

In the case of Johnson Auto Wreckers, RR 2 Acton, where a new owner has taken over, Lusty favored a further extension since the new owner had already done a great deal of work but would be unable to finish by the beginning of July.

The bylaw forbids the parking of cars outside the fence, but at Brown's Auto Wreckers the owner lives on the premises and told Lusty he feels he should be able to park his own personal vehicle outside the fence.

Council members agreed there should be limited parking for his own vehicles.

## McNabb — Gooding vows

Hillcrest United Church was the setting for the double ring ceremony uniting Marilyn Joan McNabb and Grant Vernon Gooding on Saturday, March 24.

Rev. John Griffin officiated with Mrs. Marshall McLaughlin at the organ. Soloist Ellen Hurren of Campbellville sang Evergreen and Can You Read My Mind.

Marilyn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McNabb of RR 2, Georgetown, and Grant is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Gooding, Robinwood Cres., Milton.

Maid of honor was Lois McNabb, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Ellen Beaulieu, sister of the groom, and Emmie Stoop and Pat Thompson, friends of the bride.

Brother of the groom, Rod Gooding acted as best man. Ushers were Ken McNabb, brother of the bride, and David Anderchek and Robert Reed, friends of the groom.

Following the service a reception was held for 160 guests at the Acton Legion with Ken McNabb as Master of Ceremonies. The toast to the bride was proposed by her uncle, Ward Brownridge. Toasts to the parents of the bride and groom were given by Fred Nurse and Don Wilson.

The wedding cake was made by the bride's mother and decorated by Mrs. Mary Price of Campbellville.

Out-of-town guests were present from Victoria, B.C., Calgary, Saskatoon, Blind River, Schenectady, N.Y., Chatham and other parts of Ontario.

Showers were given by Ellen Beaulieu; Pat Thompson, Ruth-Anne Wollaston and Ellen Hurren; Marg Brown; the Ashgrove 4-H Club and a community shower at Hillcrest



Marilyn McNabb and Grant Gooding pledged wedding vows at Hillcrest United in an early Spring wedding.

Church. A presentation was made to the bride and groom by her fellow workers of UCO in Milton.

A stag was held for the groom by his attendants.

Following a honeymoon to Niagara-on-the-Lake, the young couple are residing in Milton.

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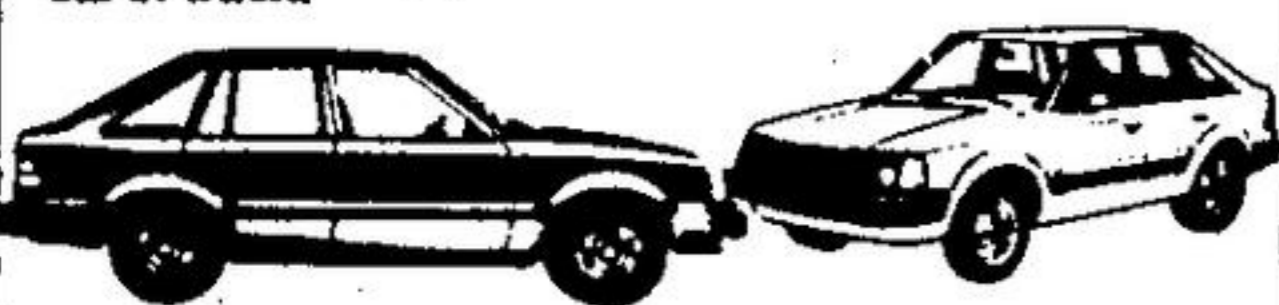
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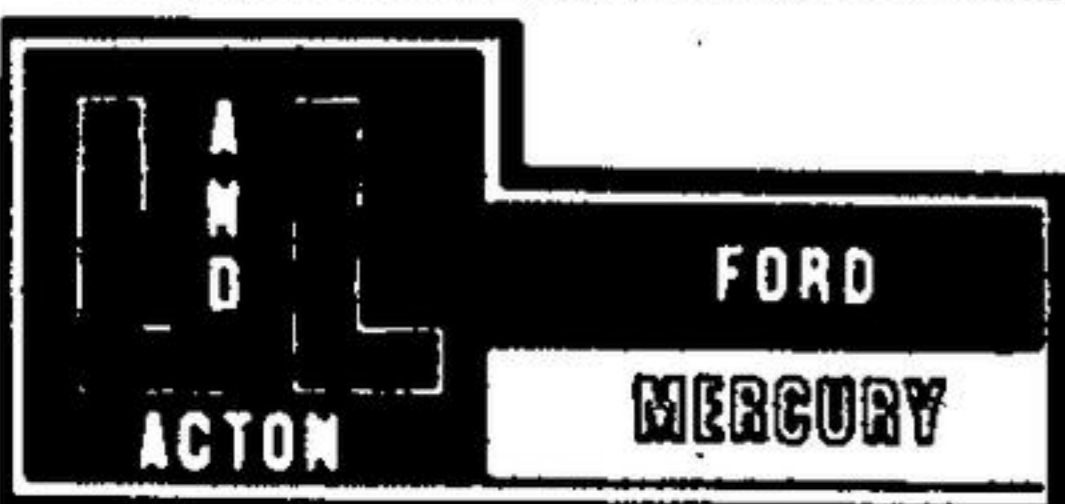
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Sun. Aug. 19 San Diego 6:30 p.m.  
Mon. Sept. 3 Minnesota 6:30 p.m.  
Mon. Sept. 9 Tampa Bay 6:30 p.m.

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