

# There's 'life' in the Terra Cotta clay

## Local artist goes primitive

It all started with an ad appearing in the Georgetown Herald just five years ago. "For sale, one potter's kick wheel, Excellent condition." When you have always wanted to be a potter it doesn't take much. That ad was all it took to influence Agnes Olive to buy the wheel. Now Mrs. Olive is one of the area's best potters and artists in clay.

"It was something I had always wanted to do but, like so many I hadn't got around to doing anything about it," Mrs. Olive has earned a well-deserved reputation as one of the area's leading potters, but does not classify herself as such.

"I'm not a production potter," she explained. "I work in clay, sometimes on the wheel, but many times just shaping the pieces with my hands from the earth."

It is evident that Mrs. Olive pays attention to shape and form in all her pieces, from the most ornate to the primitive series she is now working on. Primitive work is exactly as the name implies—primitive grass roots potting, using fingers, sticks and stones to work with the clay. No modern conveniences such as electric or gas kilns are used.

"When doing the primitive

pieces I work outside with things that I have found around the yard or from the countryside such as sticks and bones." Mrs. Olive also uses fossils to create further primitive design impressions on the clay surface before firing it in pits fed by fires of wood and cow dung.

"I often use clay that I get from the area," furthered the artist.

Recently Mrs. Olive attended a class on primitive potting. The class, as a final outing, came to Terra Cotta to gather clay for their works.

Before the clay can be used it must be tested under various conditions before any worthwhile product can be made. Mrs. Olive discovered that the Terra Cotta clay has a high limestone content that has to be screened out before the clay can be moulded.

"When water was added to the clay pot made with the limestone in it, the pot would dissolve. But removing the stone makes it just as usable as any other clay."

According to Mrs. Olive, clay is an "alive" medium. "You can't make it do what it doesn't want to do. Each clay has its own characteristics and the potter must learn how to use those to achieve the

effect he wants."

Controlling the amount of air in the kiln when firing the pieces affects the finished colour of the work. Whether it will retain the natural colour of the raw clay or take on an entirely new tint is determined in the firing process.

"I use less and less glazes on my work. Form is becoming the most important consideration when I make a piece." Inspiration for the many works done by Mrs. Olive comes from the natural surrounding of her wooded home and long walks along the unused railway tracks that go through the village of Terra Cotta.

"Sometimes we walk over eight miles along the track and bring back all kinds of ideas and materials to use to make things," added Mrs. Olive.

The best advice Mrs. Olive can give is simply "do it" for those who have always wanted to do something creative. "Don't try and copy anyone else, be yourself."

Mrs. Olive also recommends joining groups of other people that share the same interests, to pool resources. "Art is a do it yourself medium, that everyone can enjoy."



PRIMITIVE WORK is simple and functional as demonstrated by Mrs. Olive as these pieces await open pit firing at her Terra Cotta home.



FRESH FROM THE KILN, Agnes Olive displays one of her latest works, just removed from the kiln where it had been fired at 2,200 degrees F.

## Carnegie awards presented

The Dale Carnegie Course, sponsored by the Herald, is progressing very well according to John Crosby, instructor. Mr. Crosby told the Herald that people in the class are displaying a real enthusiasm for the training.

"It's a pleasure coming here. The people are so co-operative and eager to learn," he said. Mr. Crosby is from the St. Catharines area.

The following people have received Communication Awards in the course: Frank Vetrichek, Brian Buckrell, Bill Briggs,

Murt Allison, Marion Benest and Ken Reid. Winners of Special Improvement Awards are: Betty Wagstaffe, Margaret Schearer, George Kipp, Maurice Granger, Jack Deguerre and Ronald McPherson.

Special Achievement Awards went to: Bill Briggs, Dick Forsyth, Jeff Carroll, Louise Deguerre, Frank Vetrichek and Ken Slobottom. Winners of the Human Relations Awards so far are: Bill Trimble, George Kipp and Dave Murray.

The course is now into its 10th week with four sessions left to complete.

## Seniors want to use arena

The Senior Citizens Club of Georgetown may very well have a new home in the future which in turn, would enable the Credit Valley Artisans to have

a home. Because of their tremendous increase in growth the senior citizens club requires a larger meeting place. Presently the group is holding its card parties and other functions in the cottage at Cedarvale Park.

Pat Sheehan, a staff member of the recreation department of Halton Hills, stated that, once a schedule is prepared for the banquet room at the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena it will be known whether it is possible for the club to meet there.

The Credit Valley Artisans, for the time being, remain homeless. Their request was for the possibility of sharing the cottage with the senior citizens club. The senior citizens use the cottage about twice a week. Thus the nights which are free would allow the Artisans to use the much-needed facilities.

Councillor Roy Booth requested that this matter be looked into as soon as possible. "There's a certain amount of speed required for the senior citizens club, for they desperately need a larger facility. They cannot accommodate all the people who

want to attend." One way or another it was agreed that the Credit Valley Artisans also need a home, whether it is shared with the senior citizens club or on their own.

A meeting with the recreation department and both organizations involved is planned to take place in the very near future.

## Two 'cops' join CIB

The Criminal Investigation Bureau of District One of the Halton Regional Police, serving Georgetown, has been increased by two additional men.

The four-man unit now

consists of Sergeants Jack Poot and Keith Robertson, formerly of the Milton force and Constables Roy Smith and Tom Nicholson.

Sergeant John Barrett will be taking duty as desk

sergeant at the Mill Street office.

Constable Henry Adama, a patrolman, will be leaving the Georgetown force this August for duties out west.

## This was \$199.99 better than a mere 'penny' carnival

With a little help from her friends, neighbours and relatives, Cheryl Kelly of 351 Delrex Blvd. raised over \$200 in a Muscular Dystrophy Carnival she held Friday afternoon. With more than 200

people attending Cheryl raised \$241.65 by means of the various games, and draws held and articles sold at the carnival. Cheryl has held two carnivals now. Last year's total amounted to \$64.45. She had

only planned on making about \$20 last year and was delighted with the results. Needless to say, this year's amount was a well-earned surprise and delight.

Why does Cheryl, her

brothers, sisters and parents work so hard towards sponsoring such an event? "We like to help people. It's a lot of fun getting everything together and it's a real rewarding experience," stated Cheryl.

Even the Georgetown Volunteer Firement helped out by bringing a fire truck up for the children. Friends and neighbours made cookies, various kinds of refreshments and crafts.

Cheryl was delighted with the many donations made by the various merchants in town. Sykes Bakery donated a cake with Muscular Dystrophy Carnival written on top; Neilson gave a box of chocolates; Dairy Queen Brazier awarded a gift certificate; G & S TV gave an album; Eric's Hardware and Gifts donated a huge jar full of bubble gum; Zeller's awarded a \$5 gift certificate; Young's Pharmacy donated a bath water set; Delrex Smoke Shop, North Halton Sports, Georgetown Hobbies and Crafts, Global, A & P, Toastmaster and Loblaw's were but a few of the others who made donations.

A mini-putt, fish pond, bingo game, crafts, jewellery, books, hot dogs etc. were all part of the fact that it was aimed at being a fund-raising event, everyone who was involved and who attended enjoyed the somewhat different Friday afternoon.

## Raylawn okayed

Reconstruction of Raylawn Crescent should be getting underway in the immediate future. Council has accepted a \$20,361 bid for the reconstruction project.

## Want sound booth

It would have appeared that construction at the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena was finally completed, however there was one area which was severely neglected: that of sound booths in the arena. Pat Sheehan, representing the recreation department at Monday's general administration committee meeting, stated that, "with the present system, there is no means of communications whatsoever, unless you can read hand signals."

The town's figure skating club has expressed their desire to raise the money needed to build sound booths. Mr. Sheehan did point out that everyone using the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena would benefit from the installation for the booths would not only be used by the figure skating club.

"If the figure skating club is willing to rectify the situation then we should be more than willing to recommend the approval," stated Mr. Sheehan.

The matter has been referred back to the recreation department for further examination and study.



PRIZES GALORE. Many merchants of the Georgetown area made donations towards a Muscular Dystrophy Carnival held last Friday afternoon by Cheryl Kelly. Standing from left to right, holding some of the donations are Cheryl Kelly, Terry Hannigan and Karen Murray.

## We've got all kinds of plans for you!

Beautiful! That's the word for Colonial/Sunnibilt's latest Homes Catalogue - and we think you'll agree! A 40-page goldmine of the newest in home designs... artistically presented in full-colour, enabling you to picture your own special choice, just as it would be in the finished product. Big plans... small plans, and medium-sized ones too... plus an absolute wealth of timely information, as well. All for a dollar! Check out the exciting possibilities of 60 individual floor plans - in bungalow, ranch, split-level, two-storey and multi-family variations. Thousands of Canadians have solved their housing problems the Colonial/Sunnibilt way over the past 25 years... perhaps you can too!

SEND \$1 FOR YOUR COPY TO-DAY!



3 DISPLAY COURTS - WITH FULL-SIZE MODELS

WEST 2215 DUNDAS ST. E. MISSISSAUGA (Just West of Hwy 427) PHONE 625-6634 or 621-7115	NORTH 7360 YONGE ST. THORNHILL (North of Steeles Ave.) PHONE 889-8537	EAST 3392 KINGSTON RD. SCARBOROUGH (Near Markham Rd.) PHONE 261-6137
---	---	--



Canada's Largest Manufacturer of Vacation Cottages • Homes • Apartments • Garages • Specialty Structures  
2 Parts and over 40 Dealers serving Eastern Canada and North-western U.S.A. for more than 20 Years