

# Gallery an informal place

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for this sort of thing, but it's hard to find," she said. The atmosphere in the gallery is very informal, and Mrs. Wallerson said they make an effort to make people feel comfortable. Both artists work on the premises, and visitors to the gallery can watch Mrs. Olive working on her pottery in her studio.

**NOSNOB**  
"We try not to be snobs," Mrs. Olive said. "We're very into education, explaining the various techniques behind the different crafts on display. We know everybody who shows here, and how they do their work, so we can explain to the public how things are done, the processes that are used and the history of the techniques."

The partners met originally in Shawinigan about 16 years ago. Both have been interested in art since their youth.

Mrs. Wallerson has been painting "since an early age". She now does a lot of her work in monoprime, a technique where an artist paints an image on a sheet glass, most commonly using oil paint. The prints are taken from the painting by placing a sheet of good paper over the image and using pressure on the back of the paper with a roller or a wooden spoon.

"I paint to talk about things I feel," Mrs. Wallerson said. "I try to capture moods in my work. I'm influenced by shapes and colors, and I love flowers."

"I would describe my work as romantic, subjective, emotional. I like spontaneous work. It's hard to get started. An idea will grow in your mind until it's ready, but once I start working, I like to work quickly."

Mrs. Olive has a background in print-making, and also works in clay. Recently, she found herself at a point where she had to decide between the two, and chose clay.

"It really doesn't make much difference what medium you work with because it all boils down to design," she said.

It was at this point that she decided to return to school full-time and she went to the Sheridan School of Crafts and

Design. It was while she was completing the second year of her course that the Forge became available.

"The decision to go back to school was a good one because it gave me more confidence in my work," she said. Her work in pottery has primarily been in the Japanese style known as raku, and with crayon-drawings which she says are a tribute to her first grade teacher, Miss Gayner.

"I've always known I wanted to do one-of-a-kind work," Mrs. Olive said. "It takes a lot more from within me."

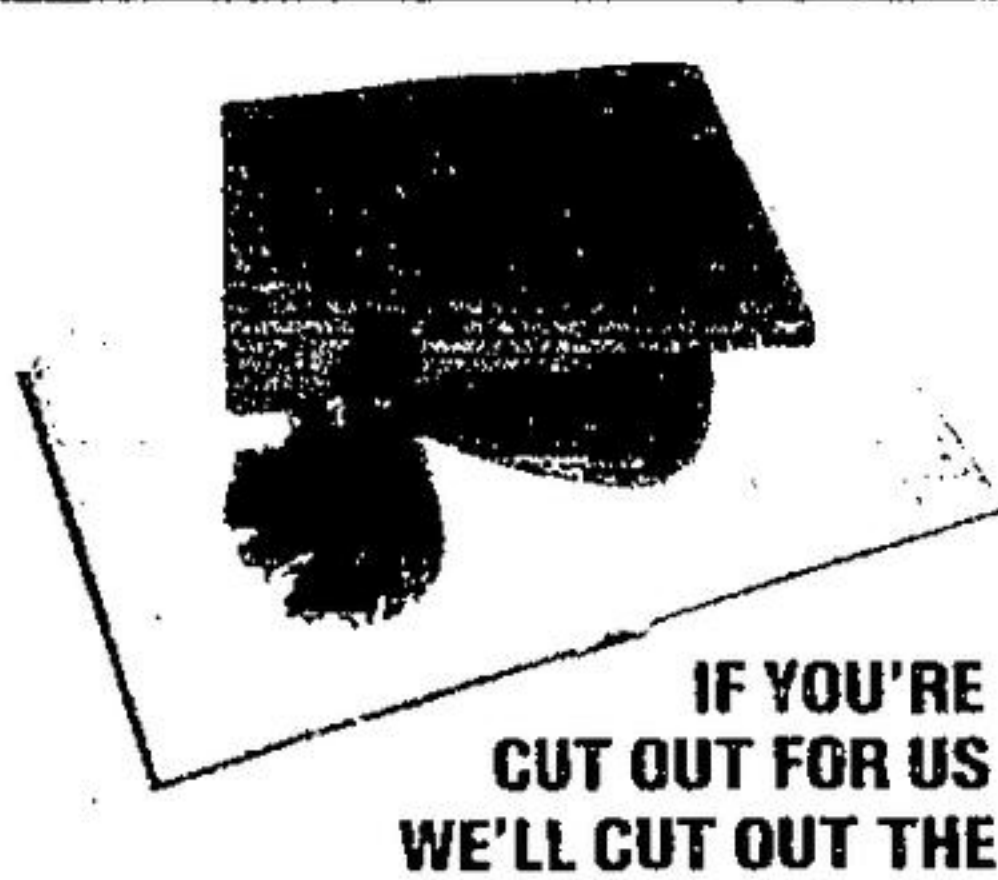
Environment is a very influential factor in the designs of her work, she said.

"I found a deer skeleton when I was out hiking, and I used the bones as handles for some of my pots. If I lived in the city, there's no way I'd be doing that, so my environment affects my work."

**BEHONEST**  
"I try to be honest in my work," Mrs. Olive said. "We cater to ourselves rather than to the public, which is a very hard row to hoe. We are really sticking to the whole concept of quality and uniqueness."

"We want to come across as a unique, friendly, open place, as an educational place, but not as snobby," Mrs. Wallerson said.

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