

Stonemason spends evenings relaxing in hot tub

By STEPHEN FROST
Herald Special

Stonemasons may be a vanishing breed of men, according to Tony Zillo of Terra Cotta, who makes his living at that particular trade.

"It's not that there aren't enough young fellows around willing to put in the four to five years work to become one," Tony says, "but the fact that the stone will become harder and harder to come by in the future."

When Tony was 14, he started working for his father (Tony Sr.) at the old Credit Valley Quarries in Terra Cotta. Since then, he's never been out of the quarry business and has been doing stone work since he was 29.

"Before quarry regulations came into effect years ago, there were probably five times as many quarries operating as there are today," Tony claims. Today, he knows of only three.

Until last year, Tony quarried full-time and worked at stonemasonry part-time to provide extra money for the winter, when there was no work in the quarry.

Tony's house is completely

venered in sandstone and his property is terraced with walls of the same stone. Two summers ago, Tony tore up the stone deck around his pool and put down a new one, which his wife, Elaine, claims is better

than ones most people would be satisfied with. But then, Tony is a perfectionist.

Witness the construction of any walk or patio that Tony installs and you can see this. After a bed of gravel is

prepared, steel reinforcing mesh is set down, then pulled up into the five inches of concrete the stone is bedded into. That takes time, but the end results are well worth it.

It's not just hard work which

produces these lasting "landscapes in stone", but a large amount of artistic sense. A stonemason has to have an eye for line and symmetry comparable to that of a sculptor. It is that perspective which separates the excellent stonemason from the merely good one.

finish working," Tony says. "You don't even notice the cold when you're sitting in it; afterward, the temperature's usually around 100 degrees Fahrenheit."

His wife Elaine enjoys it as well, although not to the same extent, preferring to use it only once or twice a week.

"I enjoy the tub especially since I don't have to stop and cover it up when Tony and I are finished with it," she says. "I particularly like it when it's snowing out and we use it after dinner. Last Tuesday it was fairly mild out and snowing, and everything was so beautiful from the comfort of the hot tub."

Stockpiled

Over the years, Tony has stockpiled a large amount of stone which he uses on his various jobs.

Quarrying the stone is often a very hard and fatiguing job and, incidentally, not without its dangers.

Normally, the top layer of rough stone, which is com-

cially useless, has to be dynamited to strip it. The bottom layers are where you find the good stone. Here, however, you can't use dynamite because it shatters stone. Instead, a hole is drilled in the stone and black powder is used that does not shatter stone. Then, the stone is broken into usable pieces

which vary in size and shape according to grade and intended use.

The worst accident Tony has had occurred when he was drilling and the drill broke, the bit going right through his foot.

"It was a little tough driving home and then to the hospital," he comments wryly.

"You're learning all the time



Tony Zillo not only built the hot tub he's sitting in, but designed it as well. Tony uses the tub, built out of stone and concrete with tiled inner walls, every evening. No wonder he's smiling. He plans to keep it operational at least until New Year's Eve.

(Photo by Stephen Frost)



PARK CONCERT'S ORCHESTRA

This group of talented musicians, playing a variety of percussion instruments, performed two songs at the Park Public School concert Thursday. The concert was a musical one for the most part, and included a play about the meaning of Christmas which talked about the annual Christmas spending spree, the profusion of Santas, and the birth of the Christ child.

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MP draws no support

Air Canada flight attendants may be on strike for the Christmas holiday season, but MP Otto Jelinek (PC-Halton) had a suggestion for the government in the Commons last Wednesday which he said might prevent strikes in the future in essential services.

His suggestion is sector bargaining, which means that all employees of organizations, such as Air Canada or the Post Office, would bargain as one union.

Mr. Jelinek asked the Commons to pass his motion calling on Donald Johnston, president of the Treasury Board, to introduce legislation requiring the unions in a single public service sector to bargain with the government on a joint basis.

His motion was shouted down. Among those opposing it was Transport Minister Jean-Luc Pepin, who yelled across the floor to Mr. Jelinek: "Flight attendants are not civil servants."

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