

Charis pottery carries on timeless tradition

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

ors are usually greeted by the steady whir of a potter's wheel, the heavy-sounding breath of a kiln somewhere in the back ground or the occasional

pop from the front shop's woodstove.

Charis (pronounced KAR-iss) Pottery and owner Grace McKnight have been in Glen Williams for about five years. Ms. McKnight produces a variety of useful as well as artistic items from her potter's wheel, much of which will be shown this weekend during her annual "Fall Happening".

Her work strives for simplicity in design and color, steers away from

being garish and outrageous, and would be, she acknowledges, comfortable in any home setting.

She has drawn from the ambience of her quiet Glen setting and creates pottery of autumn colors, sombre blues, of patterns and shapes which are easy on the eye.

MANY POINTS Charis Pottery is a member of a newly-formed North Halton Tourism Association (NHTA)



which is busily informing residents in the Toronto area and elsewhere of the many points of interest in Milton and Halton Hills. To the surprise of even local residents, Glen Williams itself offers a num-

ber of interesting places to shop, including the Hobby Horse on the Ninth Line, in the Glen Gift Shoppes and Nature's Emporium. Charis Pottery, Ms. McKnight told The Herald, is aptly suited to the small

hamlet. "Everything I do is done right here on the premises," she said. "I do it strictly myself - the throwing (forming the work on the potter's wheel), firing and glazing. This is my home and everything is done here." The front of the 125-year old house is divided into a studio and a showroom. Heavy beams run through the house, customers tread on sturdy pine floors and if they're inter-

ested in country-architecture at all, pause to marvel at the accordion lathing overhead.

NOISY MALLS Browsing in the shops represented by the NHTA is a much more pleasant experience than shopping at noisy and impersonal malls, Ms. McKnight said. "People are free to walk in and watch me work. They like to have the

personal contact with the person who has made the object they're interested in buying.

"A lot can be done to educate people locally about what small businesses in the area have to offer," Ms. McKnight said, supporting the goals of the NHTA. "Many residents don't know what is right on their own doorstep. Continued on page A18

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So you thought of joining the Arts Council, but somehow never got around to it. Now you feel it's too late for this year. Might as well wait for next September and get a full year's membership. Wrong!

Memberships are renewable on an anniversary basis. We'd love to have you join us anytime. If interested, call membership secretary Vivian Hunter at 877-1323.

Why, you ask? What's in it for me? Lots of things.

First and foremost, you have the satisfaction of being an active supporter of the arts in Halton Hills. Granted, that butters no parsnips, but there are other more tangible benefits. Four times a year you will receive our comprehensive Calendar of the Arts. No home should be without it. You have the first chance to buy Trillium tickets and receive a member discount. As a member, you also have the opportunity this year to buy a ticket to a single concert for a guest at \$10 per ticket.



Members have the opportunity to use the Calendar of the Arts, this column and our display in the Cultural Centre to publicize exhibitions, sales, demonstrations or any other activity of an artistic or cultural nature, in which they are involved.

You do not have to be an artist or crafts person to join. Nor do you have to be a musician or performer. Those who appreciate are as necessary as those who do. All are welcome.

COMING EVENTS

Charis Pottery announces its fifth annual Fall Happening this Saturday and Sunday. Grace McKnight invites you to gather in her studio with friends and family to watch a pot being formed on the wheel. A special invitation for children to create their own pot. Enjoy hot mulled cider and cookies while selecting a special gift from unique and varied display of pottery. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 543 Main St., Glen Williams. Phone 877-0947.

Credit Valley Artisans are holding their annual Christmas Show and Sale Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cedarvale Cottage.

Until Nov. 27 in the Cultural Centre Gallery - a joint exhibition by two of Halton Hills fine artists, Gretchen Day and Reg Finlayson - Realism in watercolor and acrylics.

Until Dec. 2 Gallery House Sol - Edward Schlemmer - wood carvings and selected paintings and drawings from 1978 to the present.



For her annual Fall Happening show, Ms. McKnight has bells, lanterns and candlestick holders suitable for home Christmas decorating. She told The Herald last week that she has been working on the show for about two months and noted that the event has become an outing many families look forward to each year. The show features a seemingly endless variety of things spun from Ms. McKnight's potter's wheel and visitors are invited to come in, browse and try some of her hot cider and cookies. (Herald photo)

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Local actors star in BMS' 'King and I'

You can see several fellow Georgetowners on-stage in the current production of "The King and I" being presented in Bramalea by the Brampton Musical Society.

All are members of Georgetown's own Globe Productions and their involvement in the Brampton show is an indication of the enormous wealth of talent found in the area.

Local performers involved in The King and I include Enid Williams-Nicholas, Maureen Burgoyne, Gloria Munro, Katherine Williams and Sandra Greig. Bev Nicholas is stage manager for the production, assisted by Bramptonite Peter Richards, who'll in turn appear in the Globe production of "Oklahoma" next February. John Minos of Glen Williams is also lending his artistic talents to both musicals.

Orchestra rehearsals for Oklahoma are now taking place Sunday afternoons at Terry Champ's Stewarttown home.

Tickets for Oklahoma go on sale Dec. 1 and pre-bookings are avail-

able through any Globe member. All seats are reserved and there are special rates for seniors, students and groups.

The box office phone number is 877-6441. Show dates are Feb. 4 and 5. Rotary Club benefit nights are Feb. 9, 10, 11, 12 and 16, 17, 18 and 19. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

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