

Enjoy 'Fall Happening' this weekend

Continued from page A3 and tend to travel to Brampton or Toronto." Despite the economic downturn the country has suffered, Ms. McKnight said her business continues to grow. People, she noted enjoy owning functional yet aesthetically pleasing pottery and she does wholesale work for other crafts stores, has supplied a local restaurant with some items, and more uniquely, she has been filling "custom" orders.

TEA SETS
Custom orders have included tea sets, oven dishes and dinner settings and they provide Ms. McKnight and her customers with a great deal of "shared" enjoyment. "On the one hand," Ms. McKnight explained, "people like playing a role designing the work which is being specially made for them; on the other, it's an exciting challenge for me to put all the different pieces together."

To the extent of what a single person can accomplish, some of her work is "mass-produced", Ms. McKnight acknowledged. But each piece of work thrown on the wheel demands considerable concentration and she says she's "fussy about shape".



From a lowly lump of clay, Charis Pottery's Grace McKnight creates an example of beautiful yet functional art, others of which can be found finished in her showroom adjacent to the studio. Charis Pottery has been part of Glen Williams for about five years and during that time, Ms. McKnight acknowledges that her own work has been refined to a style with which she feels quite confident.

(Herald photos by Chris Aagaard)

preferring not to work quickly and carelessly. Ms. McKnight said she loves to experiment, building on new ideas, or reworking old ones to produce substantially different results. Reflecting on the five years since she opened Charis Pottery, Ms. McKnight said that her work has become more refined; even through repetition - mass production - her skills are evolving.

WORK CHANGES
"I'm experimenting so that I have something new to offer," Ms. McKnight said. "This naturally comes about for someone whose work is growing. I find that as I change, my work changes, too."

Ms. McKnight described herself as a self-taught potter, except for a couple of evening classes taken years ago. She first began to show her work at an art show organized by Georgetown's Gallery House Sol proprietor John Sommers. (This year, she'll display bells for his Christmas show).

Now, Ms. McKnight, a member of not only the NHTA, but also the Halton Hills Arts Council, teaches pottery classes for the Credit Valley Artisans.

In a brochure produced by the Arts Council, Ms. McKnight states that she is very selective about the materials she uses, preferring to order clay cleaned and readied from a Markham supplier, rather than scrounge for it along the banks of the Credit River.

BAD CLAY
Bad clay, she said, spells disaster and days of hard work could shatter in

the intense heat of the kiln. She prefers to throw the clay in the morning when she feels fresh and ready to concentrate heavily on the work she is about to do. Pottery is then fired, cooled and glazed and then fired again - the last step being one which again demands a great deal of concentration to ensure that the kiln is completely loaded without having objects touch each other.

Her studio is filled with pottery waiting its turn in this ancient process. Next door, finished objects shine from wooden shelves, a little finer than a lot of stoneware, Ms. McKnight said, but not impractically delicate. Meanwhile, the hum of activity at Charis Pottery recently has resulted in some excellent pieces of work which will be on display and for sale at the Fall Happening.

Visitors will be able to

find bells and candlestick holders for the Christmas season and dozens of other gift ideas.

Ms. McKnight described the show, open Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. as a family affair - an outing. She has been working at it for "a couple of months" and visitors (who can also enjoy a cup of hot cider and cookies while browsing through the shop), won't be disappointed.

Charis Pottery, is located near St. Alban's Church on Glen Williams' Main Street.

If you can't make the show, Charis (which incidentally means "Grace" in ancient Greek) is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily (extended hours) now until Christmas. Weekend hours are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. Call 877-0947 for more information.

Nornic studio Yule readings Dec. 6 and 8

"The Warmth of Christmas", a selection of Yule readings prepared by Nornic Studio Productions, comes to the North Halton Golf and Country Club and Oxbow Books on Main Street courtesy the Rotary Club of Georgetown Dec. 6 and 8. Also due at the golf club on Maple Avenue is Nornic's touring production of "Don Juan in Hell" by George Bernard Shaw. Already enjoyed by audiences in Hamilton, the show will be presented Jan. 19 at Oxbow Books. Call 877-0643 for more information.

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Charlie Crimes is moving

Rotarians honor popular bassist

A prominent member of the Georgetown music scene has decided to hang up his bass, to the regret of seniors in town.

Charlie Crimes, a regular at the Rotary Club's seniors' dinners for over 20 years, is moving from Georgetown.

Nov. 1, he was applauded and honored by a special Rotary Club presentation to mark his efforts for so many years.

In the course of the evening, a cabaret compiled by local high school teacher Ralph Urzel en-

tertained the 278 seniors invited to the Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church hall for dinner.

Ken Gorin sang a medley of Al Jolson numbers followed by Pat Friend who treated the audience to popular Broadway hits. Combining their talents, the two musicians sang a ballad and the cabaret ended with the comedy sequence by Hazel Gorin and Edna Turnbull.

Seniors thoroughly enjoyed the evening and appreciated the dinner preparations and service by the Rotarians.

GDMH luncheon

For tickets to the Georgetown District Hospital Auxiliary's past president luncheon Nov. 18 at the Halton Hills Golf and Country Club, please call 877-4802.

New teachers

The Halton board of education appointed teachers Gabriela Mackay to Speyside Public School, Donald Hipple to Acton High School and Elizabeth Jesty to Georgetown District High School Thursday.



WELCOME!

Georgetown District High School teacher Tom Ramasturagh (left) was on hand to congratulate the new president of Wilfrid Laurier University, Dr. John Weir, Sunday at the Kitchener Auditorium. A member of the university's board of governors and a WLU senator at the time of Dr. Weir's appointment earlier this year, Mr. Ramasturagh wished the new president well following his formal installation by Ontario Lieutenant-Governor John Ald, chancellor of WLU. Dr. Weir is a PEI native who came to Laurier in 1965, subsequently chairing the economics department, presiding over the faculty association and serving as academic vice-president. (Photo submitted)

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