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CANADA'S LARGEST LEATHER GOODS STORE

the olde Hide House

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Rug hookers working tomorrow's heirlooms

By DAVEROWNEY
Herald Staff

There is a familiar saying among rug hookers: "today you are

members of the guild hold an exhibit of their work. This September for the first time there will be pieces for sale at the cultural centre.

the actual hooking. Currently on display at the Georgetown Public Library is a map of Canada hooked by the guild for their 1981 convention. It was donated to the Halton Hills Library-Cultural Centre and is valued at about \$3,000.

In light of our bicentennial, some members are preparing "primitive" rugs for the September showing in Georgetown. This means they will be making copies of rugs made by the pioneers out of old clothing.

The Georgetown group was formed in 1968 as a result of night school classes taught by Shirley Lyons. The 19 members decided to meet once per month to "enjoy and further their craft," according to their charter. The organization has workshops and instructors Audrey Deere, Doreen Long and Shirley Lyons are three local teachers who teach about the variety of rug hooking possible: fruit, flowers, oriental, animals and sculpturing.

Modern-day rugs done by hand don't usually get used on the floor because so much work has gone into them, says Mrs. Long.



Doreen Long says rugs hooked by hand are usually not used on the floor because of the care taken to make them. (Herald photo)

working on tomorrow's heirlooms". The craft is time consuming but very satisfying, so most members of the Georgetown Rug Hooking Guild won't sell a lot of their work, says past-president Doreen Long. Every two years the

In the spring the Georgetown Rug Hooking Guild completed the wall hanging of names who financially supported the cultural centre complex. It took nearly three years to complete, from the planning stages to hand-dyeing the material to



Vivian Hunter sells a variety of Tibetan art work, which she uses to help fund programs for refugees living in the northern parts of India. (Herald photo)

Terra Cotta Gallery

Tibetan art helps preserve culture

Herald Staff

It's not what you might expect in a small village that's known for attracting creative artists, but one gallery there is bringing part of the world closer to Halton Hills.

Vivian Hunter is the owner of Terra Cotta's Tibetan Gallery, specializing in paintings, drawings, rugs and handicrafts from Tibet. A retired woman that has lived in Terra Cotta for 11 years, Mrs. Hunter opened her business in 1979. Through her three trips to Tibet and her sponsorship of one boy that she has corresponded with for 15 years, she has gained an appreciation of the Tibetan culture.

She admits that before the gallery first opened she didn't have any intensive experience in art appreciation, but her skills improved steadily in being able to understand the symbolism in Tibetan art.

It wasn't until 1966 that anything but religious art was painted by Tibetans, Mrs. Hunter

said. Through the influence of a Toronto man, Tibet refugees were persuaded to paint other features of their culture in order to preserve their heritage, she said.

There are 100,000 Tibetan refugees in India who have fled from the persecutions of the Chinese government since 1950.

Children's Theatre

The Etobicoke Children's Theatre is coming to town Friday presenting their show entitled "Mime, Music and Melodrama".

Sponsored by the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department, the theatre troupe performs for children 5-12 years.

Curtain time is 10:30 a.m. at Centennial Middle School. Admission is 50 cents. For more information call 877-5185 ext. 263.

Club president suggests co-op for artists

By ROBIN BAKEWELL
Herald Staff

President of the Arts and Crafts of Georgetown, Pat Beer, would like to see some sort of co-op set up for craftsmen so they may sell their crafts to stores and help get rid of the factory produced crafts that some stores sell.

On a recent trip to a town near the Halton Hills area Mrs. Beer was shocked at the "made in Japan" type crafts available for sale which she reckoned were made in a Canadian factory.

"There's a lot of talent in Georgetown alone," Mrs. Beer said, and would like to see good quality crafts sold in local and regional stores.

"One of our members designed and made the chain of office for a mayor a few years back," she said.

The Arts and Crafts of Georgetown was formed in 1982 to revive and encourage Canadian handicrafts. During this time gifts and luxury items were very scarce and the only way to acquire them were to make them yourself. One of the aims of the organization was to replace those articles which the emergencies of war had separated from the people.

The club is open to anyone who has an active, original design and own work. There are presently 38 members and Mrs. Beer would like to see the number of members just under the 50 mark. Meetings are held in member homes.

During the meetings, which are held on the third Thursday every second month, the club has guest speakers, artists or movies.

The club is independently financed and receives no money from outside sources. Money is raised through their annual crafts sale in October at the North Halton Golf and Country Club. Artists are expected to pay a small commission on sales over \$100 and that

coupled with the \$1 admission helps pay the club's expenses. A \$5 yearly membership and an annual pantry shelf sale also contributes financially to the club.

Arts and Crafts of Georgetown will be offering fall courses in crafts such as quilting and glass staining. "The members decide what courses they would like to take and we then try and offer them," Mrs.

Beer said. The club was helping at the recent Robert Bateman show and donated \$1,200 to the Bruce Trail Association from the proceeds. For their centennial project the club commissioned Markham artist, Brian McKenzie, to build the hospital gates in Georgetown. They also helped Sheridan College put together their art trailer.

Small towns should never be satisfied

By KAREN HEWER
Herald Special

Small towns should never be satisfied with amateur art work, but always be striving for the highest quality possible, says local art dealer John Sommer, of The House of Sol gallery.

Giving his impressions of the artistic community, Mr. Sommer commented that it is a fallacy to say, "This is good enough for Georgetown" - the people should never be satisfied with second best. In his view, the role of the art gallery within a community should be mainly educational, concerning itself not with making money, but with setting standards.

For example, in organizing art shows at the cultural centre, Mr. Sommer wants to offer the highest quality possible. "The role of this gallery is a public institution," he said, funded by public money, and kept in operation through volunteers. A commercial gallery, by comparison is primarily concerned with selling paintings and sculptures.

"If arts are to flower, it will be through a greater involvement and commitment by the community," declared Mr. Sommer. Currently, the arts are being developed by several community-based activities, with the publicly financed cultural centre as a primary focus.

Something different is planned each month for art displays at the centre, ranging from the summer-long Bateman show to the fall photo art display, which promises to become an annual event. The Palette and Pencil Club started by local artist Frank Black 20 years ago, has developed into an active group of talented painters.

In discussing the local artistic community, Mr. Sommer emphasizes again his belief that, "you should take the arts seriously enough that, for example, amateur theatre actors should be expected to get better and better. The whole idea of art is that you are giving your best."

As an experienced art, Mr. Sommer contends that it is "nonsense (to believe) that great art can only be created under poor conditions (in dusty attics)." Mr. Sommer attributes the strong development of great American art over the last 40 years to the freedom and wealth of that country.

"I know too many artists who are giving it up because they can't make a living," said Mr. Sommer. Telling small town residents never to feel inferior to Toronto's art community, Mr. Sommer stressed that it is people, not the size of the place that determine the quality of art.

Asked to compare North American art style with European, Mr. Sommer commented that because Canada doesn't have the heavy accumulation of history, and hostilities, we are freer of encumbrances. Therefore we may have encouraged a blander artistic style. Some art historians contend that great art is created out of neurosis, such as the works of Franz Kafka, who definitely used unhappiness for great forms of art.

However, Mr. Sommer believes that, "this goes for individual artists, but not in countries. What makes art flower is what makes everything else flower, i.e. freedom of speech tolerance, leisure."

In Acton

Reflections gallery

By ROBIN BAKEWELL
Herald Staff

Reflections Gallery supervisor, Joan Yalowica, invites local artists to bring their work to the Olde Hide House in Acton if they would like the gallery to sell their art on consignment.

Reflections, which is part of the Artisan Village, has been in existence since September 1982. The gallery deals strictly with paintings and prints which are sold on consignment.

Prices for the work displayed runs from just

under \$100 on upwards depending on the size and what the artist is asking.

When Mrs. Yalowica was asked to work as supervisor in the department, just over a year ago, she said it was a little scary at first because of her lack of knowledge in the field.

BEAUTIFUL.

"I enjoy working at it and meeting the different people. I've seen quite a bit of beautiful work since I've been involved here," she said.

Most of the work on display is from artists in the Halton Hills area. Mrs. Yalowica pointed to a print of a train and station done by W.D. Folkins and explained that most of the people who buy the station prints actually worked on that particular type of train or lived near the old stations.

Acton residents, Gretchen Day and Carol Fuller have work on display there while Ruth Gibson from Georgetown and Martene Joffret from Guelph also find the gallery a useful place for their art.

Three area artists

Intimate atmosphere of Forge Gallery

By ROBIN BAKEWELL
Herald Staff

About 15 years ago the county had plans to widen Winston Churchill Boulevard in Terra Cotta and an old house on the east side of the roadway became in jeopardy of being destroyed after the county had purchased it.

Six years ago, after graduating from the Crafts and Design course at Sheridan College, Agnes Olive approached town council with a proposal for the house when she heard through a contact at the general store it might be available.

Winston Churchill Boulevard was never widened and the house is now known as the

Forge Studio Gallery. Three area artists, Agnes Olive, Jo Watterson, and Bev de Jong, are now leasing the house and have turned it into a gallery with three separate studios where visitors may be able to see the artists working.

"It is the most fabulous way an old building in the community can be used. We realize every day how lucky we are," Mrs. Olive said. Agnes Olive is a potter who is presently working in a 19th century Japanese art form called raku. This involves removing pottery from the kiln while it is red hot and placing it in a sawdust-filled bin. From this process a special finish is formed. Georgetown Palette

and Pencil member Jo Watterson is involved with watercolors and mono prints in which no two prints, taken from a glass face, are the same. Bev de Jong is the gallery's silversmith.

Mrs. Olive feels the Forge Studio Gallery has an intimate atmosphere. "We are constantly educating people and have a very personal gallery," she said.

Although the gallery is quite unique, the artists would like to see more people from the Halton Hills community visiting them and not just become a tourist attraction. There is a group of Americans that visit the gallery every year but Mrs. Olive said most of the people come from the Toronto area.



In a picturesque Terra Cotta setting artists Agnes Olive and Jo Watterson work away at their craft. They are seen here inside the Forge Gallery with some of their work. (Herald photo)

Getting bored?

There are still some openings in the Recreation Department's Children's Summer Activity Programs which operate until August 24. Whether you sign up for a week, day or half a day, your child will enjoy a variety of fun-filled activities.

Programs are provided for 3 through 12 year olds, and include regular swimming, special events, games and crafts.

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