

25 year history of town weavers

Herald Special

If you're interested in weaving in this area, there are two groups in town: The Georgetown Weaver's Guild and the Heritage Handweavers.

The older group is the first one to organize with its beginnings dating back 25 years. The Heritage Handweavers began eight years ago when it was found there was a need for an evening group.

Eva Middleton is the president of both groups. The Georgetown Weaver's Guild once had about 20 members, but the group has dwindled to eight members.

They meet once per month in each other's homes and discuss business and hold a program where a member might teach a new style.

All the members are hobby weavers who make gifts for themselves or members of their family, she said.

Most have a 45" wide loom in their home, although you can buy them smaller, but it takes longer to make an item, Mrs. Middleton said.

The group makes

placemats, pillows, runners, small wall hangings as well as blankets and clothes, she said.

If you're interested in joining up, you don't have to know how to weave because there's lots of help available, she said.

Weaving goes back 20,000 years or more and was used by the Ancient Greeks, Egyptians and North American Indian tribes, she said.

HERITAGE WEAVERS

The Heritage Hand Weavers have 23 members who come from a variety of towns such as Erin, Huttonville and Terra Cotta as well as Acton, Georgetown and Limehouse.

The group meets at the Cedarvale Cottage on Wednesday and are now involved in making tablecloths.

The Heritage Hand Weavers are the younger of the two groups and many have young children or work during the day.

Thanks to a number of raffles and a Wintario grant, the weavers bought a 100" loom which is stored at the "cottage".

The difference between handwoven and machine-made is the

unique quality, Mrs. Middleton said. "There's no point in putting yarns on looms - it's a waste of time."

"Some people raise their eyebrows at the price of crafts, but they don't realize the amount of time spent on these items," she said.

In conjunction with the Credit Valley Artisans the Heritage Handweavers have lessons in the fall during the evening. If you were at Pioneer Days in downtown Georgetown or Canada Day in Glen Williams you might have seen the weavers.

They will also be at the Georgetown Fall Fair and are planning their popular pre-Christmas sale of items in November.



EVA MIDDLETON

Acton Arts and Crafts

Herald Staff
Once a month the nine female members of the Acton Arts and Crafts meet at president Judi Shannon's home to discuss their art and make business plans.

During July and August the group does not meet because of summer vacations. September's meeting will be dedicated to making plans for the Acton Arts and Crafts show to be held the last Saturday in October at St. Alban's Parish Hall in Acton.

The show is an exhibition and sale and Judi Shannon said the attendance for the annual event is pretty good.

The club is in its 14th or 15th year and is a non-profit organization. "Whatever we sell covers the cost of supplies

to make something again," Mrs. Shannon said.

The club is open to anyone involved with a craft and the present members are involved with weaving, knitting, crocheting, stained glass, painting and a variety of other crafts.

Mrs. Shannon said the monthly meetings have a social atmosphere to them. "It's kind of nice to work with a bunch of girls who enjoy it and have something in common," she said.

Anyone who is interested in joining the Act-

on Arts and Crafts is invited to get in touch with Mrs. Shannon or one of the other members in the group to meet with them and discuss their craft.

"We are always looking for new members," Mrs. Shannon said.

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Palette and Pencil Club

Continued from page 6

joined the club in the early 1970's while "fiddling in oil", now expresses her art through pen and ink sketches. She feels the club has a great variety of art forms in it including oil, watercolors, ink and crayon.

The club, which consists of two full-time professional artists and approximately 15 artists who hold day jobs, meet every Tuesday night at the cottage in Cedarvale Park.

In conjunction with the town, courses and workshops are offered at the cottage in the fall. "I feel that very often people are not recognized for their artistic ability," Mrs. Horton said, adding that the club is not only interested in promoting art, but in promoting the individual.

Although Mrs. Horton said the club is not a teaching one, she did say the club has a lot of workshops and there is always positive feedback between the artists.

"I don't think you'd get that if you were sitting alone," she said. Mrs. Horton would like to see more beginners join the club because of the super talent which arises from them. "A lot of people are in it for themselves, if you sell one along the way it gives you the incentive to keep going," Mrs. Horton said.

Mrs. Horton teaches up to Grades 6, 7 and 8 at Centennial Public School in Georgetown. New members for the club are welcome and may register by calling 877-5351.

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