

Local African expert to display at McMichael Gallery this month

By Wendy Long

Culture is lurking in Halton Hills. Norval's Nadine McNulty is an African artifact collector and researcher who will present an exhibit at the McMichael Gallery's Festival of Folklore this month.

The festival, in Kleinburg, features music, art, dance and storytelling from around the world from Dec. 26 to Jan 3. McNulty will present her exhibit and share enticing tales of Africa Dec. 28.

McNulty, 33, grew up in Huttonville and graduated from Streetsville High School with a passion for animals.

"I've always worked with animals in different fields and capacities," McNulty says.

It was animals that originally lured her to Africa and South America, but McNulty soon became impressed with the culture instead. "I really fell in love with the people and their way of life."

She went from studying animal care at Sheridan College to study-



African artifact collector and researcher Nadine McNulty (of Norval) holds some of her artifacts.

ing native life in Africa.

McNulty's first extensive trip was to Peru in 1986 for six weeks. Widely read and interested in a myriad of subjects, she wanted to visit Macchupicchu and walk the Inca trail "primarily to see the remnants of the Inca civilization."

Back in Canada, McNulty couldn't forget her time in another diverse culture. "I felt this itch - I had to get back to South America," McNulty said.

In 1988 McNulty made another trip, this time to the Amazon where Peru, Columbia and Brazil meet.

In Africa, she journeyed to Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Zaire and Egypt. For the past four years McNulty has made a trip to Africa annually, for as long as five months at a time.

What's unusual is that as a young woman McNulty is not afraid to travel alone in third world countries. "The danger there is different than here," she said.

McNulty soaks up the African

culture by staying with friends in their villages and forfeiting the hotel route. She laboriously carts artifacts back to Canada to decorate every nook and cranny of her home. McNulty's growing collection includes a myriad of masks, spiritual tools, toys, even African chairs.

"I've always had a great deal of respect for anything made by hand," McNulty said. "It's what the people make, and how it relates to their culture."

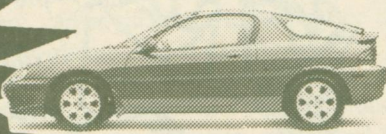
McNulty says she is heavily involved with the African community in Toronto and works hard to convey education about their misunderstood culture.

Her future plans include a permanent location to display her artifacts and extensive photographs. Her dream, one day, is to run a museum and publish a book on her adventures.

For additional information on the McMichael Gallery's Festival of Folklore, call (416) 893-1121.

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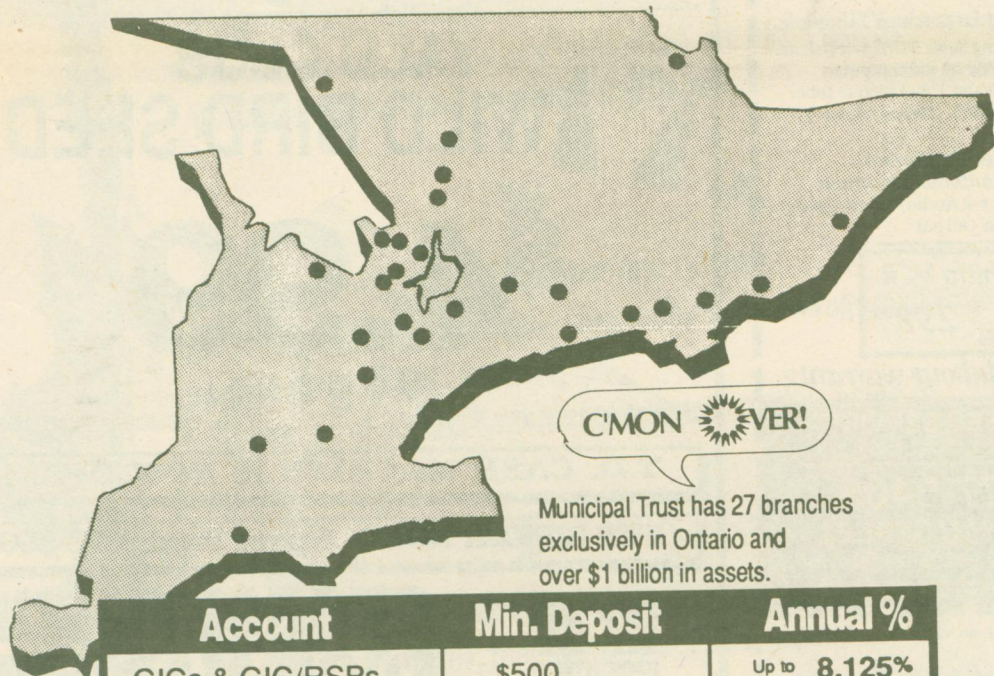
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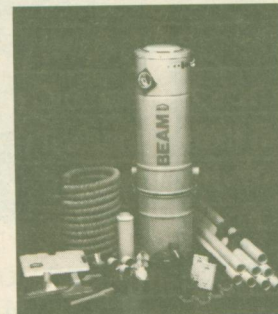
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