

Andy Drenters stands with a horseshoe sculpture celebrating the Patron Saint of the Beekeeper. (Doug Harrison photo)

Drenters set for 53rd exhibition

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

Andy Drenters says part of one's life is dealing with the struggles of figuring out why we're here and what we're meant to accomplish.

Since his days growing up in Holland, the Rockwood sculptor has used agricultural farm implements, stainless and mild steel, along with industrial waste to create thousands of dynamic figurative and abstract works.

Drenters was inspired by his father, who was an inventor, blacksmith, artist and teacher.

At the age of 6, young Drenters could see the artistic potential in simple shapes.

"I thought I would do something about it and I never stopped," the 57-year-old recalls from his studio at the Old Rockwood Academy, which is home to Drenters.

"I enjoyed working with metal because I was always around my dad's blacksmith shop. I grew into it naturally. It was a hobby."

While the former lumberjack admits he's not one for fame, Drenters also realizes he'll become lonely if he keeps himself locked up in his studio.

"What enjoyment can I get if I can't share my work with anyone?" asks Drenters, who will enter his 53rd exhibition, a three-month display at the Centre in the Square in Kitchener starting June 2. "I can communicate with my work without saying anything. Maybe it's an abstract way of relating with people."

Drenters seems to know where to bend and re-shape the farm implements instinctively and knows when an idea is going to work. The result is usually a unique transformation into a form that triggers a bevy of different interpretations from people who appreciate art.

It all started in Canada for the father of two in 1951, when at 14, Drenters and his brother Yosef immigrated to British Columbia.

The two were in awe at the rolling landscapes and cedar rails, which Yosef later used to build a cross at the Academy. He ran the

Academy for about 20 years until 1983 when he passed away. The brothers were also taken aback by the abundance of stones, rocks and farm implements.

"We incorporated them into sculpting, it was a whole new awakening," remembers Drenters, who in 1965, was made a member of the Sculpture Society of Canada. "The whole country just blew me away. It was almost like we were meant to come to Canada and experience this incredible land."

Drenters' talents aren't limited to sculpting, however. In 1956, he took skating lessons in Guelph and then turned pro in 1960, becoming one of Acton's first.

"At the time I didn't know what direction I was going," Drenters says of the decision to pursue either skating or sculpting. He con-

tinued to teach skating for six years and "do a bit of sculpting."

There was a time, however, when Drenters thought his creative juices had run dry. It was after his first show in Toronto, the *One Man Show* at the Pollock Gallery.

"I thought 'I can't do it again. I can't see anything in the objects anymore.' It took some years to overcome that fear, but now I just go, do it and let it happen."

A native of Belgium, Drenters will soon take his 74 works and two-and-a-half years of preparation to Kitchener, thrilling many onlookers with his creations.

"I'm in a very exciting field that is tough, but I enjoy it!"

Tennis club kicks off season

Get out your racket from under the stairs and start stretching!

Opening Day festivities at the Rockmosa tennis courts will be next Saturday, April 30, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Members will be ready to help all tennis fans sign up for the '94 season and a barbecue will follow a round of friendly play.

The tennis club offers a Junior program, lessons, social and competitive play.

In case of rain, opening day will be switched to the following weekend, Saturday, May 7.

Teacher visits Pacific Rim

ERAMOSA P.S. NEWS

BY LINDSAY PARKINSON

The Environment Club has recently planted a pop bottle garden. Kids brought in pop bottles and Mrs. Frayne helped the kids cut them so that the top of the bottle would be the garden and the bottom would be used to hold extra water. Each child planted five bean seeds to grow. It was fun!

I interviewed Mr. Goudie, the Grade 5 teacher, about his almost-six-week trip to the Pacific Rim last year. This is what he said:

"I went from Toronto to Vancouver, then to Hong Kong, Bali (Indonesia), Brisbane (Australia), Auckland (New Zealand), Fiji, Hawaii and back home again. It was surprising to see how interesting people were and how different their lives are. I went through four seasonal changes — sometimes it was hot, other times it was cold!"

"I visited with friends in Bali and Brisbane. It was most interesting in Bali because it just so hap-

pens that when we got there it was their New Year. I ate supper in a Fijian village. We ate rice, fish and vegetables in different sauces and we used our fingers. I learned how to make tapa paper.

"The last place I visited was the Polynesian Centre in Hawaii. It was a great place to end my visit; the centre had shows which included dances, songs and examples of art, crafts and life in many of the Polynesian Islands."

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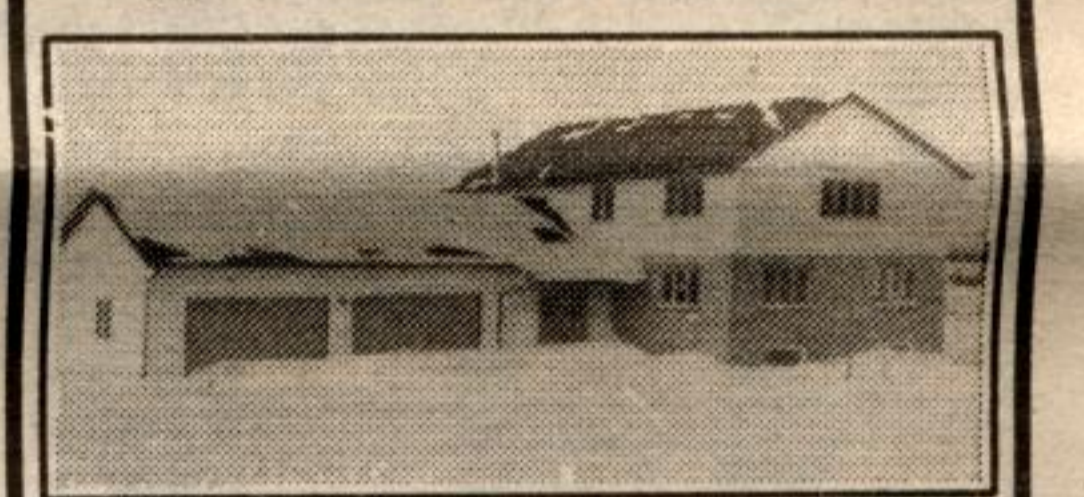
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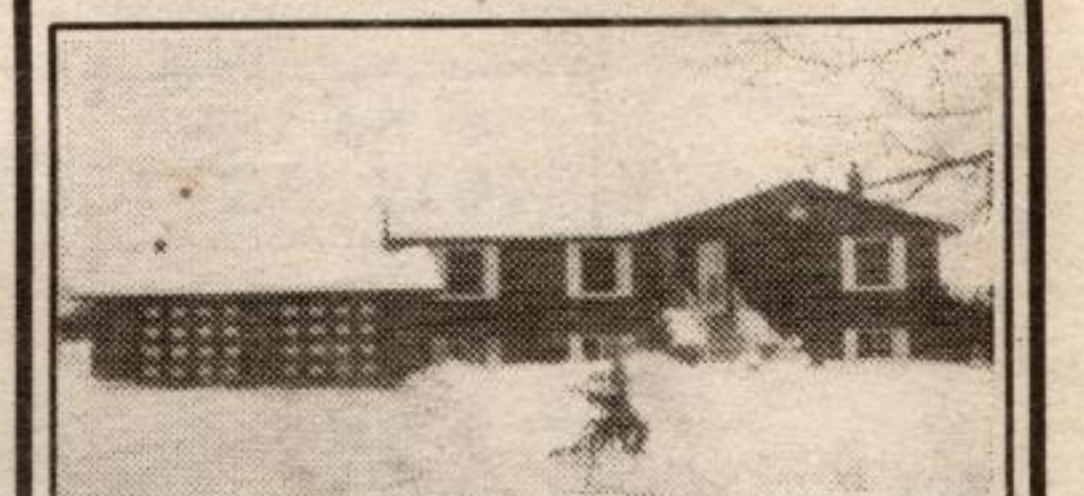
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