



NICE WORK! Watercolour artist Carole Black shows off a decorative plate created from a painting of hers Saturday at the Creative Arts Group's Studio Tour in Rockwood. Susan Mogelin, left, and Verna Rose admire the Victorian theme of the work. (Eve Martin photo)

More than 500 at weekend art tour

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

Two years ago, Rockwood artisans Ross and Wendy Durfey stuck a sign outside their village residence to gauge the reaction of people interested in seeing the former's wood works and weaving projects of the latter.

The first car down the road pulled into their driveway.

They both were sold on the idea to begin a Rockwood Studio Tour, demonstrating the wealth of local talent, promoting arts in the area and luring visitors to the village.

The Durfeys, two founders of the Rockwood Creative Arts Group, were encouraged by the success in May of their first annual Outdoor Show and Sale, Art on Seven. And they were pleased on the weekend with the Rockwood Fall Studio Tour, the third tour of studios in the area.

At least 500 people visited 10 artisans at their home or workplace to not only see crafts and where they are made, but also to talk with the creators themselves.

Paintings, wood carvings, wrought iron work from 16-year-old artistic blacksmith Mark Banks, wooden toys, weavings, spinings, pottery and sculpture were just some of the work on display.

Others showing off their talents included Susan Strachan Johnson, watercolour portraits; Rosalyn Insley, acrylic paintings; Donna Diamond, potter and sculptor; Gail Root, watercolours; Carole Black, watercolourist; Lori-Anne McDermid, photographer; Maureen McLeod, pottery and sculpture, John McLeod, watercolour and

drawing; Harold Rice, native wood carvings; and Dorothea Martens.

Ross displayed his wood works, including functional pieces such as a cookbook holder. Wendy showed off woven fabric items and baskets.

"The weather wasn't too bad. It didn't slow anybody down," Ross reported on Monday. "We had at least 500 people through our place and that's fairly representative."

"This time of year we're trying to get people moving around and exposure to artists. We would like to have a lot of sales to make them money, but we'll see repeat business. People got to meet the artist and got a better appreciation for their work."

And they came from far and wide. Aside from the local interest, many made the trek from Oakville, Hamilton and the Niagara Peninsula, along with couples from Port McMurray and New York.

"We want to limit the tour to 12 locations, keeping it close enough to the heart of the village and also getting a good range of arts and crafts," Ross stresses.

Eramosa now 'Emerald'

ERAMOSA P.S. NEWS

BY KARA DERMA & JENNIFER KUPFERSCHMIDT

This week the Grade 5/6 class at Eramosa School went on a field trip to the Outdoor Education Centre in Eden Mills. Mr. Foss, a great instructor, made our trip exciting!

We went down to the stream to look at creatures' habitats. After that, we went back inside to learn about what we had found.

In the afternoon we did some weed art. It was fun and time!

We are getting ready to celebrate our Emerald School Status (500 environmental projects). The Grade 5/6 class is celebrating by putting on a shadow puppet play.

Ms. Phillips, a professional artist, brought shadow puppets from Java. The play is based on *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynn Cherry. Music and sound effects will be added to the dramatic presentation.

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