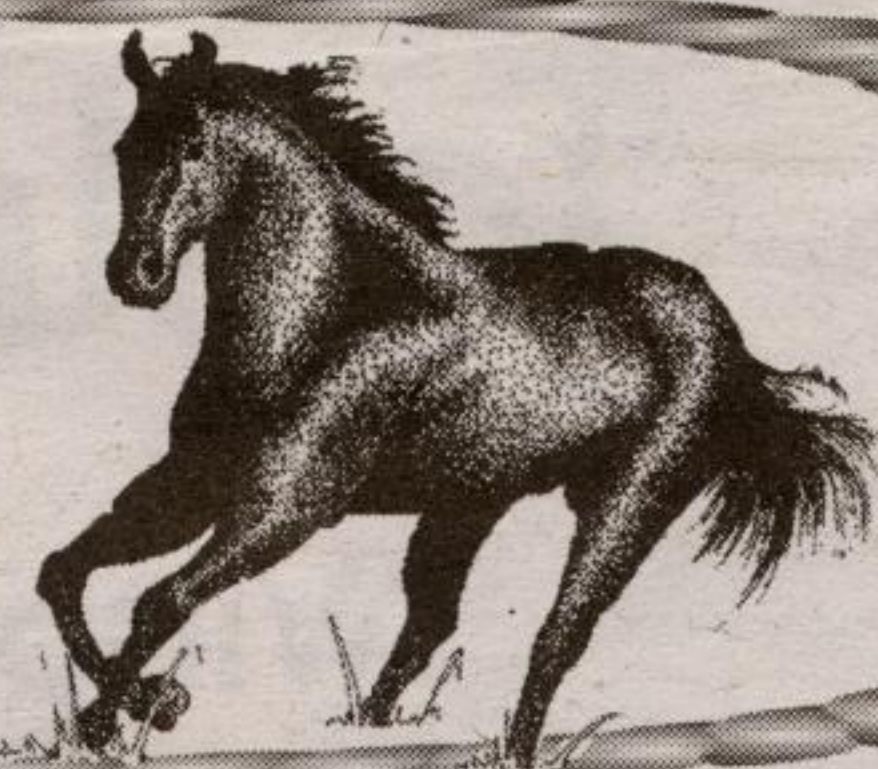


CLIPPITY CLIPS



The art of glass horses

by Stacey Massey

Sitting amid a vast collection of her work, with sunlight streaming through the colourful array of stained glass designs, it is clearly evident Helene Hansmann, of The Glass Menagerie, is a passionate woman who has discovered a unique and rewarding career portraying the beauty of animals.



Helene Hansmann

Ms. Hansmann, a Bullmastiff dog breeder, and owner of six horses, is an artist who is able to take the beauty of these creatures and capture it in beautiful art forms for all to admire.

"I totally love horses - I couldn't be without," the proprietor said.

Though she began her art career with ink drawings, and has dabbled in water colour, her real passion is stained glass.

"I'm sort of a self-starter," Ms. Hansmann said of her decision to learn the art of stained glass. "I was

taught how to do it and from then on I was hooked.

"I wanted every window filled with stained glass and I think I'm almost there," Ms. Hansmann said as she surveyed her work with contentment.

Unlike other art forms that may put mental stress on the artist, working with stained glass also puts physical stress on the artist.

"It's not as easy as it looks. I wish it was sometimes easier," she said with a laugh. "It's a lot of work and I have no feeling in my finger

tips."

Working with glass and grinding the pieces requires the artist's hands to be calloused and Ms. Hansmann said though she took a break from stained glass, since she has come back full force, her hands have already developed callouses from the grinding and constant handling of glass.

During her 15 year tenure working with glass, Ms. Hansmann has created hundreds and hundreds of pieces. Though she primarily produces horse and dog pieces, she does an abundance of custom work which leads her to a wide variety of subjects.

"Basically I'll do anything once."

The difficulty is that even the simplest pieces can become difficult when formed with glass. It is the small, and sometimes tedious task of tiny details that can make her job

painstaking.

Ms. Hansmann said the pattern (which she designs herself, usually from photos) is the most important aspect of the final piece. Individuals think they can decide on a pattern and they will end up with a magnificent glass piece. But there's a lot more to consider.

"You've got lots of textures and types (of glass)," she said "And you have to be careful with cutlines."

Each slate of glass is different and may require different handling, but the process Ms. Hansmann follows is always the same.

The stained glass art is created using copper foil. Ms. Hansmann said she starts by designing a pattern then makes her cuts and grinds the glass. She then uses copper foil and a sauder iron to weld the pieces together.

"It's basically like a puzzle."

Like any other hobby or art form, anyone can learn the steps but it takes talent to succeed.

With the holiday season upon

(Continued on next page)



The Sportsmanship Award for Old Orchard Farms/System Fence goes to the Robinson Family. From left to right: Brianne, Andrea and Nicole. The event was sponsored by Sherry Whitworth (back, right) and Shady Lane Stables.



Sarah Gordon and Good to the Last Drop/Time to Cuddle, with a total of 67 points, won the Beginner 10-18 award. From left to right are Vanessa Hale Daunt, Linda Hale, and Sarah Gordon.



Linda Hale presents Joe Terres with his prize for Reserve Low Adult and Top Rider.



Yvonne Van Hoof and Golden Eye scored a total of 108 points for award for Best Hunter, as well as receiving the High Point for the Season award. Linda Hale, right, is presenting.

Photos by Deborah Quaille

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Old Orchard Farm/System Fence 2001 Overall Awards

Old Orchard Farm and System Fence 2001 Overall Awards were presented at a banquet in Brookville on November 23. The rider/horse must have attended three shows out of the five, and the most points over fences determined the winner of tied points. Overall divisional champions must move up a division, e.g. Low Adult to Hunter, Beginner to Low Children's Hunter or Pony, or ride a different mount if they show at OOF next year. The Awards are as follows: Beginner Under 10: Heather Chamberlain; Beginner 10 and Over: Sarah Gordon; Low Adult: Joe Terres; Pony: Andrea Robinson; Equitation: Brianne Robinson; Children's Hunter: Desta Frey; Hunter: Desta Frey; Intro Jumper: Dylan McPhail; Jumper: Ali Livernois; Fieldmaster Memorial: Vanessa Hale Daunt and Fieldmouse; Sportsmanship Award: the Robinson Family; High Point for the Season: Golden Eye and Yvonne Van Hoof.

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