

The Rockwood MULLER



Dianne May's rug hooking earns her Ontario honour

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY

The New Tanner Crafters come in two main varieties. Some follow printed patterns. Others create their own. Some say that's what divides the technically gifted artisan from the artistically inspired artist.

Guelph/Eramosa resident Dianne May, a member of the Georgetown Rug Hooking Guild, has been judged to be both.

May picked up a second prize in the annual Ontario Rug Hooking Show earlier this year with a rug she designed and hooked around a pattern of autumn leaves.

The rug was actually one of several projects required for a rug hooking teacher's certificate, which May recently earned in the United States. She already has an Ontario teaching certificate.

"They ask you to create a design and then make up the kits to teach the pattern to students using the kit," she explains. The tricky part for May was knowing that her "students" were all qualified teachers in their own right.

The canvas on which May created her design, was cov-

ered with jagged lines without any particular correlation to leaves or any other shape. She designed the individual leaves, as well as adding some black background around some of the leaves to introduce depth. She also chose her own colours for both the leaves and the veins, picking out the shapes of each leaf.

She earned her certificate, then entered the rug in the Ontario show and picked up her second prize there in the fine cut category.

Rugs, May says, fall into several categories, including wide cut, fine cut, original designs and primitives. Wide and fine cut refer to the width of the wool strips hooked into the burlap backing to create the textured surface of the rug. Cutters, like hooks and frames, are part of the equipment members typically need to pursue their craft.

Unlike latch-hooked rugs, the type created by hooking guild members uses strands of woven wool fabric cut to the width of knitting yarns and then hooked. The uncut fabric resembles the weight and texture of fine gabardine used to sew clothing. It is purchased either from an instructor or directly from the United

States, May says. "We used to have a woolen mill in Cambridge where we could buy our wool, but they closed some years ago," she says.

Hookers may buy dyed swatches, or they may buy natural wool and over-dye it to achieve the colour they wish for their project. Dyeing her cloth is one of May's favourite parts to her projects.

She admits to having many rugs on the go but only a few which are actually finished.

"I'm always starting a new one," she says. "I see something I like, and start it, and then get caught up in another one and start that too."

A typical hooker would probably finish a couple of rugs per year, depending on the size of the canvas and the complexity of the design, of course.

May sees rug hooking as a social thing, much like quilting. Guild members get together in a well lit room and work on their projects, she says, and often get much more done that way than they do working alone at home.

A Town of Milton employee, May began taking rug hooking lessons with Shirley Lyons in Georgetown and has

belonged to the Georgetown Guild for 26 years. The guild has about 60 members, of whom probably eight have their instructor's certification.

The Georgetown group is quite active in hosting courses and workshops. Probably that is the secret of its size, May speculates, at a time when groups in larger centres like Brampton and Mississauga do not seem to be flourishing. There is a wide range in the ages of group with some members coming from as far away as Barrie and Petersburg, near Kitchener.

May taught some classes at Erin High school several years ago and is expecting to start a small group with fellow staffers in Milton in the new year. She has also been asked to help with some classes at a group in Glen Williams.

May travels to workshops in the United States a couple of times a year with some other guild members and has made some good friends through her craft.

"They say Canadians have better technique," May says, "But I think the Americans have better use of colour. But we're learning. We're getting freer with our colours over the years."



LOTS OF LEAVES: Dianne May poses with her fine cut hooked rug which won a second in the Ontario Rug Hooking Show earlier this year. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Council drops ball on leaf collection

By MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

Guelph-Eramosa council is uttering a collective oops as they acknowledge they "dropped the ball" this year on leaf collection in the municipality's hamlets.

Councillors expected Wellington County to include a special pick up for yard wastes this fall since they took over garbage collection throughout the county earlier this year. By the time they realized that wasn't going to happen, it turned out to be too late to organize the local pickup themselves.

In a report to council Monday, clerk/administrator Janice Shepard said one contractor could not do it, one was too expensive and the third would require two weeks notice before any pickup could be arranged.

Councillors decided, given the time of year, it was unlikely such a special pickup could happen now before snow falls. They also acknowledged the number of bags of leaves urban residents have already privately disposed of. Some of those bags have been taken care of at the

wet/dry or the Guelph landfill, but many have also been inappropriately dumped along municipal roads.

Council will be broaching the issue again next year with the County, and if no pickups are approved at that level then the municipality will organize its own system, councillors agreed.

Parade of Lights set for Dec. 13

The annual Rockwood Parade of Lights is set for Thursday, December 13 at 7 p.m. Spectators are advised to show up early because the crowd does gather well before starting time.

The unique Parade of Lights attracts visitors from a wide area as farm equipment festooned with lights proceed down Rockwood's streets.

Adsett makes pitch for Wellington Warden's job

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY

The New Tanner Guelph-Eramosa mayor Dave Adsett has made his pitch to become warden of Wellington County.

Adsett was first elected as an Eramosa Township councillor in 1994. He became the Township's reeve in 1997 and assumed his present position of mayor when the former townships of Guelph and Eramosa were united in 1999.

During his tenure at the County he has served on the library, waste management and Wellington Terrace committees, as well as chairing the social services committee for the past three years. That has included working on the County's land ambulance service throughout the County.

Asked what tasks he would like to see County council involved with as their warden, Adsett lists only two. He would like to tackle con-



DAVE ADSETT

struction of non-profit housing as a joint effort between the County and the City of Guelph. He sees a need for single bedroom and bachelor accommodation in the area to serve the elderly and "young people just starting out."

He would also like to see the County institute some sort of deputized body as their parking and bylaw enforcement officials instead of "paying the OPP to go around writing parking tickets."

Despite his relative youth,

politics is an old game for Adsett. He grew up with a family attitude of commitment to public service watching his father, Bill Adsett, fill the role of reeve in the former township of Eramosa and warden for Wellington County. His sister, Marie, was the Progressive Conservative candidate in the Guelph Riding in the last

federal election. Adsett is publisher of the Wellington Advertiser in Fergus, the newspaper established by his father.

Adsett's opponent is long-time Mapleton politician and mayor, Carl Hall. Wellington County councillors will vote on their new Warden at Thursday's (Dec. 6) County council meeting.

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