

Cedarvale Cottage is home to artistic collective



Carolyn Filter of the Credit Valley Artisans Potters and Sculptors Guild shows off one of the group's many pieces of work.

Photo by Patricia Post

Artistic home to four different guilds since 1975, the Cedarvale Cottage, in the park by the same name, is where the Credit Valley Artisans (CVA) meet every week.

The Town of Halton Hills gave the cottage for use by the artists, at affordable rent, with the condition that low-cost courses be offered to the public—a task that the CVA has generously met. The group welcomes painters, potters and sculptors, handweavers and stained glass artists, from novice to professional, to practise, learn and show their work.

"I love it because it's so dynamic here," says Kathy Bailey, who paints there on Tuesdays when members of the Palette and Pencil Guild can come to work any time between 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Bailey, who also has a studio at The Williams Mill—a group of artists' studios in Glen Williams—teaches traditional glaze oil painting at the cottage. This is the same method the old masters used by applying layers of primary colours. Students are typically any age from 13 years to older adults.

On the third Wednesday of every month (except July) at 7:30 p.m., the Heritage Handweavers and Spinners Guild have time at the cottage. Their work includes weaving, spinning, basket weaving, felt creations, dyeing, silk fusion, knitting and more, according to member, Ruth Scott.

"We are constantly inspired by the work of our members whose abilities range from beginners to professionals."

The Stained Glass Artisans are "dedicated to the promotion and appreciation of glass art" according to their mission statement.

These artisans meet at the cottage on the second Wednesday of each month, and host workshops as time and space permit. The kinship of other members, as well as access to tools, equipment, and reference material makes membership in this guild a valuable experience, according to one member.

Downstairs in the Cedarvale Cottage, eight potters' wheels and three different-sized kilns are neatly arranged for use by the members of the Potters and Sculptors guild. One beneficiary of the Town's directive to provide low-cost instruction is Carolyn Filter—a potter who started Cottage courses in 1997 as a stress-reliever from a high-pressure job.

"I was smitten. I took every course and every workshop they had to offer," says Filter. She went on to Sheridan College's crafts and design in ceramics program, and last July, she opened her own

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