





Carvers a chip off the old block

Then Bonnie
Malenfant walked
into the Halton Wood
Carving Club Inc. studio several
years ago, being able to create the
items she was admiring was the
furthest thing from her mind.

But the club's founder, Jim VanKaughnet helped her see things differently.

"I can't do that,", said Malenfant. VanKaughnet then handed her a small block of wood and carving knife and told her to chip of the corners. Then he said, "if you can do that, you can carve." And she's been carving ever since.

Members create wildlife sculpture, caricatures, relief carving and woodburning art pieces. Their intricate work can be seen in their studio at The Williams Mill, Glen Williams. The group meets Tuesday



Halton Wood Carving Club member Ward Wright works on a piece. Photo by Patricia Post

and Thursday, 7-10 p.m., to work on projects together, and they conduct classes as well. Art pieces can be bought when the studio is open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

—By Patricia Post, special

These Hands are always in motion

The Halton Hands in Motion Knitting and Crocheting Guild lives up to its name.

Not only do its members turn out items worthy of showing at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre Gallery, it also makes considerable contributions to the community.

At their last show, in the fall of 2002, the guild raffled off two member-made blankets to raise \$1,200 for breast cancer research. They plan to do the same for the next gallery show May 30 to June 13, 2005.

Members gather on the second Thursday of each month, 7-9 p.m. to work on individual projects.

"It's not a class, but we all help one another and learn new skills," says guild founder Diane Crawford.

An annual \$25 fee takes care of the rent at The Indoor Mall (rear entrance), 318 Guelph St., Georgetown. Fees also cover the cost of coffee and refreshments, as well as guest demonstrators who come two or three times a year.

Benefactors of the guild's handmade mittens and blankets are local food banks, Halton Women's Place, and the Salvation Army. They also supply hats for patients of the Halton Region ambulance service.

One of the groups' favourite projects is making a shawl for the member who needs a 'hug'. Each member will knit part of the shawl as it's passed around. When completed, the shawl is given to a member who may be experiencing grief or going through tough times.

The guild started six years ago when Crawford, who owns
Georgetown Yarn & Crafts at 170
Guelph St., said customers would often express the wish of having a place to meet with other crafters.

"The stereotypical image of knitters being only older ladies has changed," she adds. The variety of yarns and projects has also increased interest in the craft.

Co-presidents are Edythe King and Joan Barber. For more information call Crawford at 905-877-1521.

—By Patricia Post, special

