

ENTERTAINMENT

Woodcarvers carve a niche for themselves at Williams Mill

ROSALEEN EGAN GARNEAU
Special to The IFP

As the Williams Mill in Glen Williams prepares for its *Tiny Treasures Christmas* show and sale, *The Independent & Free Press* is running a series giving readers a glimpse of the most valuable treasure of all—the artists. This is the sixth story of the series.

The artists and craftsmen/women of the Halton Woodcarving Club offer something a little different at the Williams Mill. The studio is used as a club house and learning centre with the 20 or so members ranging from the hobbyist to international award winners and professionals. It is open to the public during regular Mill hours and items are available for sale through the gallery or at the studio.

The carvers are delighted to show their craft to visitors and to share their expertise with novice carvers. The club offers an introductory learning experience of five visits for only five dollars. Long-time members find new people add new life to the club. Often people come to the studio with talent and vision but don't know how to make it come to life. The Halton Carvers teach structure and how to use tools so the vision can take shape.

Members of Halton Woodcarving Club pay a minimal annual fee to have 24/7 access to work space fitted with a dust collection system, power and sharpening tools and expert advice when requested.

Wood carving includes relief work, carving in the round, pyrography (burning) and carving with a chain saw. Usually soft wood such as basswood or



A sample of the work created by the Halton Carvers that includes relief work, carving in the round and a gourd carving. The carvers work is always available for purchase at the Mill and the public is extended a special invitation to visit the studio during the *Tiny Treasures* event. *Rosaleen Egan Gameau photo*

balsa is chosen but carving of harder woods, bark and natural items such as gourds is also done.

The Halton Carvers are very active in the community. On October 20, their creative work will be at the Georgetown Market Place as part of the Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills (CASHh) fundraising campaign. Visitors will be asked to vote for their favourite piece through the People's Choice Awards.

Tiny Treasures runs November 16 to Christmas. The Williams Mill Gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Studios open: Fridays and Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m. For more information: 905-873-8203, www.williamsmill.com

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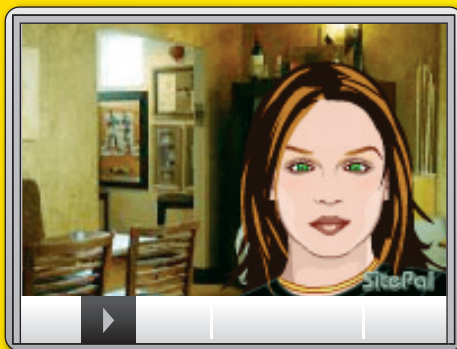
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