



STOVE-LIKE COVER on the hot water radiator in the old Crawford house is just one of its interesting features. The Beswick household uses the "oven" to warm mitts and boots in winter.



JAPANESE BRUSHES are used by Helen Beswick in the glazing process. She also uses a large hypodermic needle to squirt glaze on the pottery to give a required affect.



AN ASH GLAZE was used to finish this liqueur bottle. Helen made the glaze by mixing the ashes from her wood stove with clay. Her shop "The Place with the Lions" is on Main St. in Campbellville, beside the pond.

The Champion

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"The place with the Lions"

Potter takes pride in her work

Story and Photos
By Joyce Beaton

When Helen Beswick bought the big old Crawford house beside the pond in Campbellville, she had no intentions of opening a shop.

However, interested people kept coming to her door wondering when the shop would open and asking to buy things. They were curious as to what Helen was doing. They could see through the

front window that someone was potting and it just followed that Helen would welcome them to watch. Helen now welcomes them to buy as well. However, she attaches great pride to her

work and is always interested to know where her pieces of art are going. She is particularly pleased when a customer comes back again to ask for custom items to be created.

"Whatever I do, I do intensively," says Helen. "Each summer I go to Sheridan College to have a working holiday. I find myself so very influenced by the people there and come back home with new ideas and inspiration."

Shop opened
This past summer she learned the art of making pottery look like leather from the famous potter Marilyn Levine, a Canadian who has shown her work in Paris, France. Last summer Don Reitz, a foremost North American expert in salt glazing, taught her his techniques.

Helen tries to make half her tuition fee by selling her pottery. She likes to work in porcelain and has the opportunity to do so at Sheridan College where they have the special kiln needed.

Her shop, just recently opened officially to the public, is called "The Place with the Lions." This was an obvious name as Helen explains, "Whenever anyone would come in they would say, 'Oh, so this is the place with the lions', so that's what I called it."

The lions lie to the side of the entrance to her shop. They are made of brick and were fashioned at the brick yard once located in Campbellville and now run as a lumber yard.

Markings
Helen's work is identified by several distinguishing marks. If the item is one of a kind she signs it and puts the date on. She also has a studio stamp in the shape of a lion's paw and a large HB in a square. Her work can be purchased in the Dundas Craftsman shop as well as at special shows of the Oakville Arts Society, and in Toronto boutiques.

Prior to moving to Campbellville Helen and her family lived in Oakville. There they were involved in many aspects of community work. Helen has been a guide leader for the past 20 years and has also taught Sunday School. However, her love of art always came first and the Campbellville move was prompted by the fact that she needed more room in her home for a studio.

The house in Campbellville reminded her so much of her childhood home in Queenston that she took little time in making up her mind to purchase it. Its many rooms allow her to expand her interests in painting and weaving. "I like anything that has to do with handicrafts," she says, "anything that is made by hand is very special to me, it has something of the artists in it."

Her weaving is done off-loom, combining children's and dog hair with the wool. Her children have inherited their mother's love of art with her two eldest daughters displaying their work in the shop.

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THE LIONS LIE in the snow in front of "The Place with the Lions". Helen Beswick's crafts and pottery shop occupies the bottom front half of the large old house in Campbellville.



HELEN BESWICK shows a clay face of an angel she was asked to make, a replica of one the customer had seen. She is shown in her display room beside her workshop.



OLD FRANKLIN STOVE burns wood to keep the Beswick sunroom warm and homey during the winter months. Behind the stove are an iron kettle and a wall hanging. The hanging is a piece of wood with white clay sculpture.



OLD PINE CUPBOARD holds many of Helen's pottery works. She is holding a mug made to hold a pint of beer. Helen is wearing a hand-woven shawl.