

# Craftsman tries to fill the gap



One of Jim Allcock's creations is this "everyman's" lamp. The stained glass craftsman hopes to specialize in windows as his new business, Paragon Glass catches on.

By JANE MULLER  
Champion Reporter

Jim Allcock's aim is to live up to the name he has given his new enterprise.

The owner of Paragon Glass explains the word paragon is defined as a model of perfection, a statement he plans to reflect in his stained glass creations.

Mr. Allcock learned his craft as a young man in Britain, where he was born. After completing an apprenticeship program he came to Canada, but in 1957 he could find no one to employ his crafts. After many years as a draftsman and engineer, Mr. Allcock is once again able to put his original training into practice.

He and his wife Joan opened shop in October in Milton where the couple have lived for three years.

"Last year I noticed a resurgence of stained glass in Canada," Mr. Allcock said.

Further investigation showed there was a void in Milton and the craftsman took the opportunity to fill it.

After only a few weeks in business, Mr. Allcock has already begun to teach his craft. Students registered in eight-week sessions totalling 16 hours.

"My concern is to make craftspeople," Mr. Allcock explains.

The small shop, located at Dorset Park Plaza, is multifunctional. It is a classroom, a showroom, a workshop and a supply depot for professionals and hobbyists.

If you are not a do-it-yourselfer, then Jim will create custom made lamp shades and windows for his customers.

Those with lamp shades or light fixtures in mind might first need to be set straight as to the difference between a Tiffany shade and the new contemporary type.

Invented by Louise Tiffany in the early 1800s, the Tiffany lamps are all reproductions of the original craftsman's designs. The glass is fitted together with soldered copper foil and the creation of the intricate designs is as time consuming as it is expensive. The reproductions sell for \$300 to \$2,000 depending on the design.

The "everyman" contemporary lamps are much less expensive, produced from glass fitted together with lead strips similar to a stained glass window.

As Mr. Allcock's students will know, the glass pieces are not actually cut but scored then broken along the score lines. The more artistic stained glass craftsmen like Mr. Allcock create their own patterns but design books are available.

These books, tools and stained glass are available at the Allcock's store. Various gift items produced by Mr. Allcock and other Ontario artisans are on display.

"The price depends on the type of glass, size and design. The biggest expense is the art and the time," Mr. Allcock said.

He has deliberately kept his prices below those in Guelph, Burlington and Toronto in an effort to entice local buyers.

Mr. Allcock admits his intension is to work on a commission basis, designing windows for restaurants and public buildings. His calling card in this area of stained glass work is a panel in his own front door.

The ship at sea depicted in pieces of colored glass took Mr. Allcock about 50 hours to complete. Originally he and Joan were going to work out of their home; hence the front door promotion.

## U.I.C. change

Changes should be made to Canada's Unemployment Insurance system so that local welfare agencies can be paid back for the temporary support they provide people waiting for UIC benefits.

Halton councillors threw their support behind a motion from Brant County calling for that change.

In a report to council, Debbie Oakley, social service director, noted that when people apply for unemployment insurance benefits they usually face a waiting period of up to five weeks before they actually receive any money.

During that time they are eligible for welfare under the provincial General Welfare Assistance Act and welfare agencies can apply to be reimbursed for the support they provide, but only if the delay was caused by errors on the part of the UIC.

In June this year Halton processed 496 new applications for welfare, 112 of which were from people waiting for benefits from the UIC.

## Region plans study into elderly care

If Halton Region is going to continue spending hundreds of thousands of dollars every year on expensive consultants, then its own staff should be reduced.

That's the feeling of Oakville Coun. Fred Oliver, who criticized regional officials last week for recommending the hiring of yet another consulting firm.

In this case, members of the health and social services and administration and finance committees approved a recommendation to hire a Toronto firm to carry out the first phase of a study into Halton's role in providing services for the elderly.

"If we're going to keep on going to consultants then we should be cutting back on our

staff in-house," Mr. Oliver told members of the health and social services committee.

"I'm getting sick and tired of building up our costs on both of those fronts," he added later.

The \$35,000 study being contracted out is to establish exactly the role that Halton Region should be taking in providing services to the elderly.

"We spend as much as \$8 million a year providing services to the elderly," chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin told members of the administration and finance committee.

"Even if the province doesn't come through with the extra money we need we should go ahead with this simply because we have a lot of

rationalization to do," he said.

Oakville Coun. Carol Gooding, chairman of the committee which recommended hiring the consultant said the study would have to be done in two phases.

She explained that the Region's budget of \$35,000 for the job was \$20,000 less than the lowest bid received. Such projects are 50 per cent subsidized by the provincial government, but there has not been a commitment to finance that share of a second phase.

Mrs. Gooding argued that hiring a consultant was the best way to carry out this project because no one on the staff of the Region has the skills or experience to do such work.



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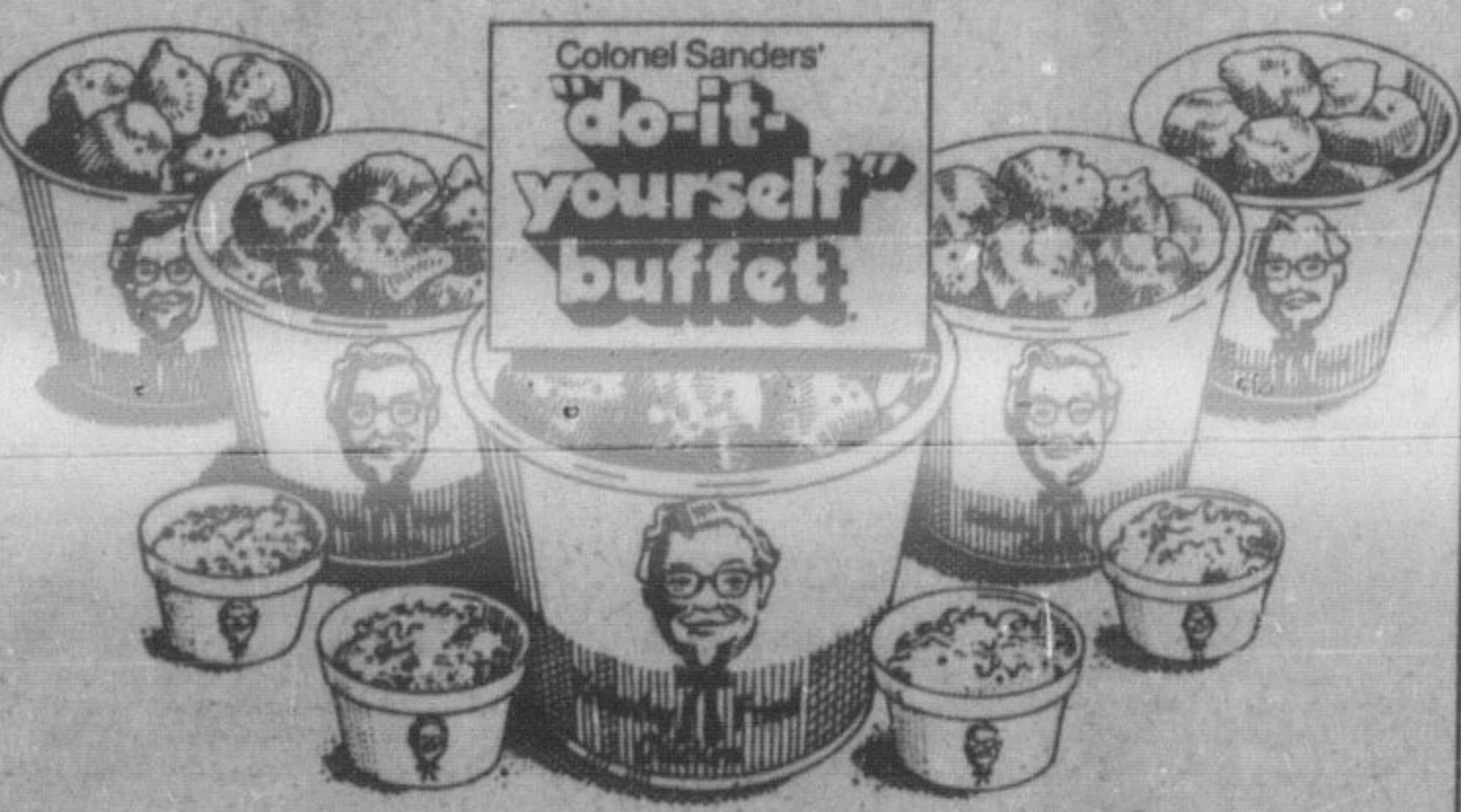
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