

Milton • Means
Business

Local siblings 'all fired up' for craft show

Pair will be among about 450 artisans selling their work

By **FANNIE SUNSHINE**
The Champion

Milton siblings Teresa Beal and Dave Carson will be two of Canada's 450 premier artisans to display their work at the One of Kind Spring Craft Show and Sale at the National Trade Centre at Exhibition Place in Toronto March 28 to April 1.

The show will feature a unique-sampling of Canadian-made home and garden products, visual artwork, fashion and body and care foods.

The siblings work mostly with ceramic crafts and mosaic designs.

"I started doing this about 17 years ago," said Ms Beal, who has owned All Fired Up on Nipissing Road for the past 15 years.

"My sister and I joined a ceramic class and we dabbled with craft shows on the weekends. The switch plates sold really well. It just took off from there."

Ms Beal, who has been part of the spring show at the trade centre for the past 13 years, said she introduces new designs at this show and from the way pieces are received, decides whether or not to continue with a certain design.

"We put out a new catalogue at summer time," she said.

"We also take part in the Ottawa Craft Show, which is usually held around the same time as the Toronto one. More people come through in Toronto, but being part of both shows is worth it."

Growing design trend

With the mosaic art designs, Mr. Carson takes flawed pieces of unusable material, smashes them up, and then with the small pieces reassembles a pattern — usually onto mirrors or tables, he said.

"It's a growing kind of design trend," said Mr. Carson, who has been designing mosaic art for six years.

"It's the type of art that was popular in the Victorian era. Some people had items that were passed on from generation to generation and pieces would break off. Rather than throwing them out, they would glue the pieces on to other items. I do custom designs as well."

To see more of the pieces offered at All Fired Up, visit their Web site at www.nowthatsaswitch.com.

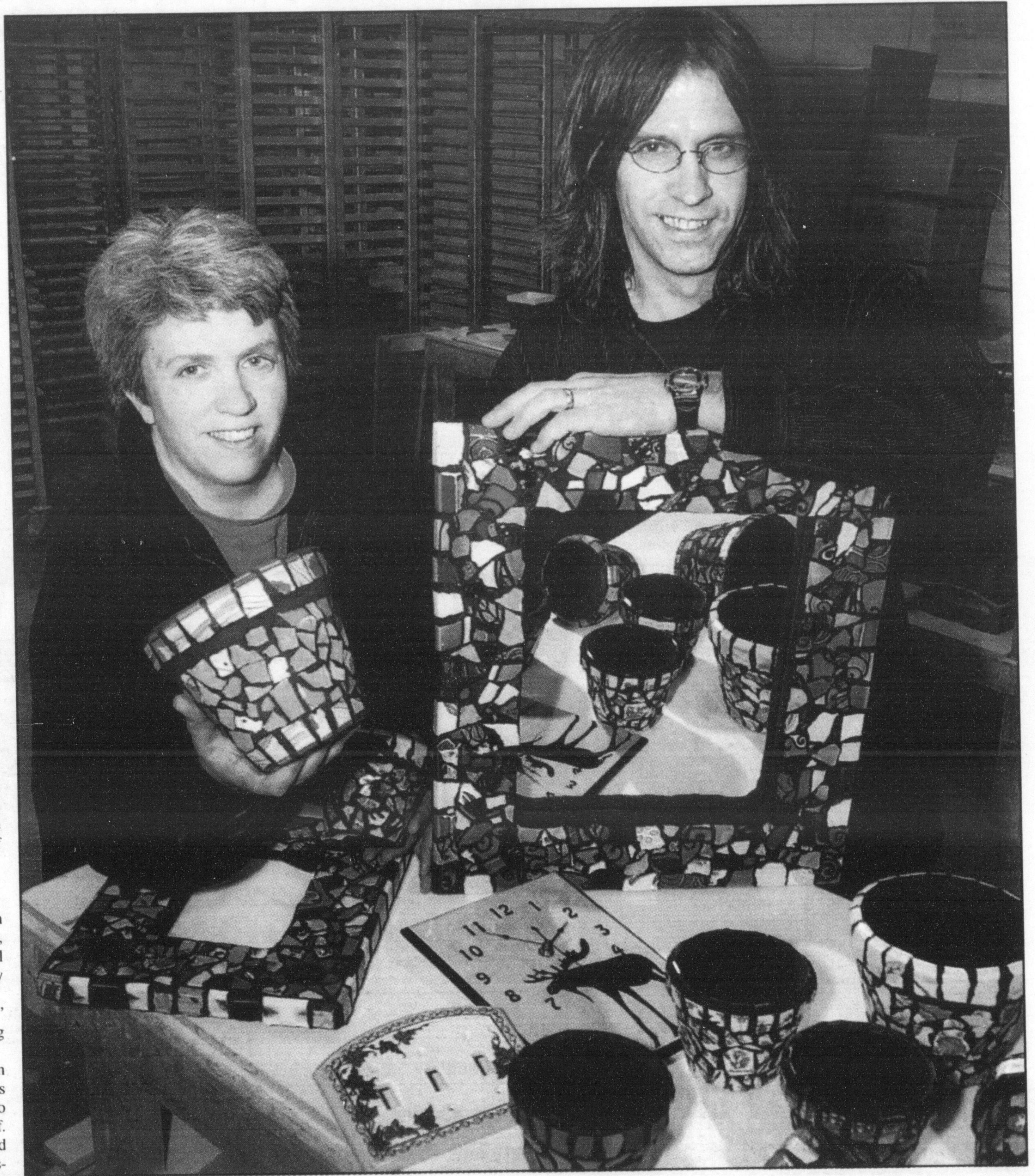


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Teresa Beal holds a mosaic flower pot while brother Dave Carson shows a mosaic mirror — just some of the items the pair will sell at the One of a Kind Spring Craft Show and Sale in Toronto.

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