

Arts & Entertainment

Folk art is only limited to artist's imagination

By FANNIE SUNSHINE

The Champion

Six years ago, Julie Stroz wanted to try her hand at a new hobby. And after attending night school in Burlington for folk art lessons, she quickly realized her talent for the craft.

"Anything can be folk art, except for fine art," she explained. "Fine art is usually an original. Folk art is a copy."

Folk artists are usually untrained and create their work in various patterns. Folk art isn't limited to the canvass; it can also be in the form of pottery or wood and is only limited to the artist's imagination.

"Folk art can be oil paintings but it's mostly acrylic," Ms Stroz continued. "I've painted benches, clocks, bird houses and plates. I have the wood for a plaque I want to put by the front door, but I haven't decided yet what I want to put on it."

Although she prefers nature painting to scenery, she's painted it all, she said.

"It's very rewarding. You start off with enthusiasm and then think it's awful. But when you finish it's very rewarding."

Ms Stroz isn't the only one in the household that's picked up folk art. Her husband, Joel, spends his days working away at the hobby they share.

"I've been doing it longer but he's better at it than I am," she said.

Classes at seniors' centre

When they're not working on folk art at home, they're attending the Thursday afternoon folk art class at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre.

"The centre is very welcoming, very friendly. We work with a teacher and on our own. There's about 10 of us at the centre but we're always looking for more people to join us."

Even though Ms Stroz said she doesn't consider folk art to be difficult to pick up, instruction is needed when beginning to learn the craft.

"Anyone can do it with instruction. You can't just pull out a brush and start painting."

Mr. Stroz said although he and his wife don't make a profit from their work, they find the craft very rewarding.

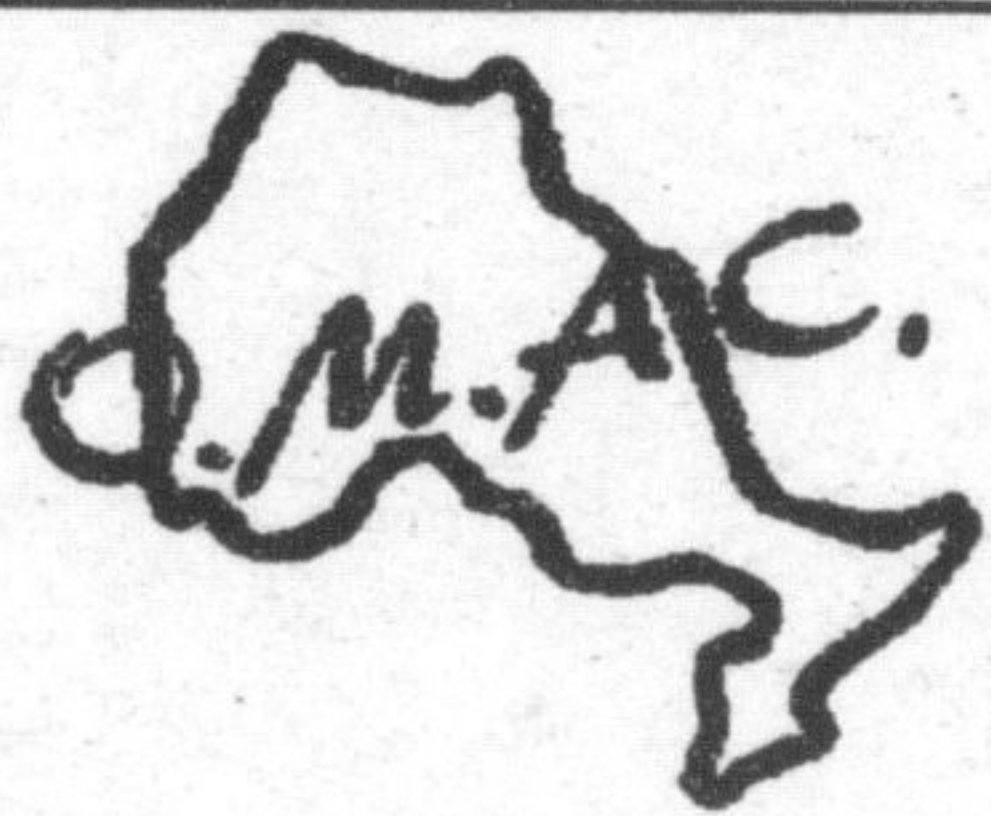
"It's a nice hobby. Anyone can do it if they put their mind to it," she said.

"If someone comes to the class at the (seniors') centre and they've never done folk art before they might feel a little intimidated so it might be a good idea to get instruction first."



Folk artist Julie Stroz shows some of her acrylic-painted serving trays and a weather barometer.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



ONTARIO MORTGAGE ACTION CENTRE LTD.



"Your First Choice in Mortgage Financing"

- PURCHASES • RENEWALS/TRANSFERS • REFINANCES • PRE-APPROVALS
- TELEPHONE/ON-LINE APPLICATIONS • CALL TODAY!!!

1 YEAR 4.10%*
 3 YEAR 4.75%*
 5 YEAR 5.45%*

VISIT OUR NEW OFFICE IN
 MILTON MALL SHOPPING CENTRE
 (905) 875-2333

VARIABLE
 1.99%*

*O.A.C. RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WWW.OMAC-MORTGAGES.COM

HEAD OFFICE 131 WHARNCLIFFE RD. LONDON