

Darling Home sculpture 'absolutely magical'

Tip-matching campaign funds addition to garden

By Kathy Yanchus
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

There's nothing more enchanting to a child than a whimsical fairy.

One such magical creature recently alighted atop a moss-covered rock in the woods surrounding The Darling Home for Kids in rural Milton, with no plans of flitting away.

From inside the respite and palliative care home for medically fragile-children, the fairy can easily be spotted, gazing at her magical ball.

Low windows allow the children to spot the fairy from their beds and wheelchairs and in a stiff wind, catch her wings slightly flutter. When darkness falls, they can watch with delight as the ball she cradles in her delicate hands lights up.

"Absolutely magical" is how Carlanna Sdao describes the sculpture, which she and her husband Diego commissioned for The Darling Home for Kids.

"It's the perfect sculpture for that environment. It captures your imagination," says Sdao, owner of three Milton Tim Hortons and a longtime supporter of the respite home for children with life-limiting and life-threatening illnesses. "I've always had a special place in my heart for kids with special needs. The Darling Home does so many wonderful things for parents and kids."

Matching their employees' tip donations throughout the last Smile Cookie campaign and then some, the Sdaos commissioned Milton sculptor Nancy Cuttle to create a piece for the home's sculpture garden.

"I thought before I started the sculpture, if I were a child trapped in my body, what is something that would make me happy, and I thought — to be able to fly," says Cuttle. "That was the idea behind the fairy."

Using her great niece as a model and the



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NEW ADDITION: Artist Nancy Cuttle (left) shows her new sculpture 'Darling Fairy' to local Tim Hortons franchisees Diego and Carlanna Sdao, who commissioned the piece.

new cementitious product Winterstone, it took four months for Cuttle to design and complete the fairy. Cuttle too donated some of her time and talent, with her creativity exceeding the bounds of the initial request.

"The sculpture became bigger and more complicated, but once I get an idea I have to go with it," she says.

Winterstone is pliable like clay, but hardens like cement, and is ideal for outdoor

sculptures, explains Cuttle.


The aluminum wire wings have imbedded crystals that sparkle in the sun, and a solar light lies within the magical ball, she adds.

Cuttle discovered a 'fairy circle' of old rocks for the location, tore out the suffocating goutweed to reveal the circle and the sculpture was installed courtesy of Matt and John King. (John's wife Mara is chairperson

of the gallery volunteer group for Milton Centre for the Arts.)




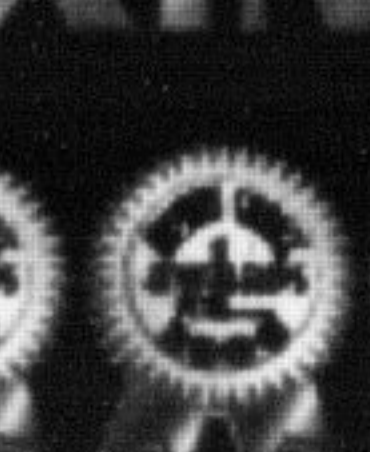
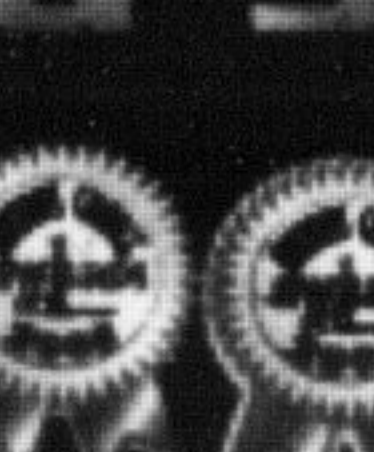


"I like to fall in love with the work I do, and I did," says Cuttle, adding. "The sculpture is the coming together of a number of individuals who wanted to give the kids at the Darling Home something to smile about."

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