



The Great Canadian Wagon Train

Two of the horses of the Great Canadian Wagon Train are tied to a wagon after the Wagon Train stopped near Craighurst last Thursday on its cross-country journey to the Peace River Valley of Alberta. Staff photo

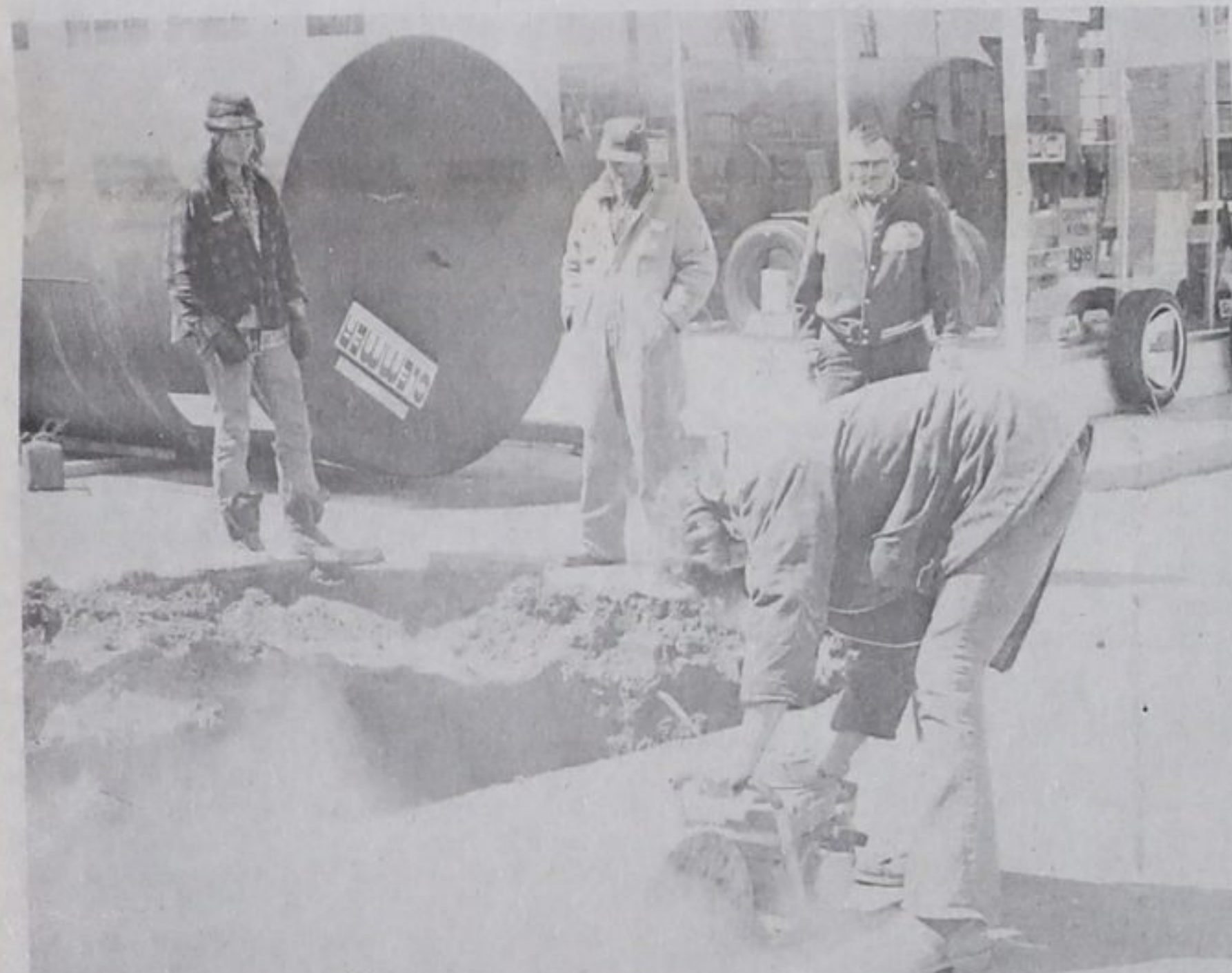
Potter Robin Hopper to be one stop on second annual Artists Studio Tour

by Andrea Cohen
Did you ever wonder what it would be like to see a potter creating pieces of Art? Well, the opportunity is yours. Robin Hopper, potter, will be one of six artists opening their studios to the public for the Georgian Guild's second annual Artists Studio Tour.
Hopper has held nine one-man shows and exhibited in fourteen group shows. These include the Canadian Guild of Potters, and shows in Hamilton, Toronto, CNE Exhibit (where he won two awards), Niagara Falls, and the Royal Ontario Museum.
Hopper was born in England in 1939, and was educated there, studying art at Croyden College.
After graduating, Robin Hopper says that he didn't have enough money to open a studio because a kiln was so expensive.
He decided an extra profession would enable him

to finance a studio, so he entered the field of theatre, first as an actor and then expanding to all phases of back stage preparation, such as construction of props.
His dream eventually came true and he opened his first studio in Kentbury Berkshire, England in 1964.
Since then there has been no looking back for Robin Hopper. His career as a potter and teacher have included covering England, Toronto, and now Barrie.
In 1970, Hopper set up the ceramic department at Georgian College and his own studio workshop in Hillsdale, which now employs three full-time assistants.

Hopper creates many one-of-a-kind pieces and works predominantly in porcelain. Many of his pieces reflect different seasons of the year. Landscapes are one of his favourite designs. Right now

the winter season is reflected in blues and whites. The clay used is made up to his specific requirements and it's not unusual to see 25,000 pounds being delivered at a time.
On April 26, treat yourself to an interesting experience and see Robin Hopper at work.
Also included on the tour will be Millie Ristvedt-Handerek, painter; John Alan McEwen, metal sculptor; Julia Bo Loo Eng, artist; Lorraine B. Hovey, artist; Heather Johnson, macrame.
And as an added bonus, tea will be served at Georgian College where there will be an exhibit of scholarship and prize winning work.
Tickets can be obtained from any member of the Georgian Guild at the College foyer on April 26, or by contacting Muriel Stephens, Letitia Street, Barrie.



The concrete cutter

Sawing asphalt isn't your average job these days, but it's a necessary part of installing a 5,000 gallon gasoline storage tank. Bob Stewart, at the Gulf Station at Main and Poyntz Streets in Penetanguishene is having the new tank put in this week. Eric Carter, who works for Bill Doolittle Ltd. of Orillia is on the saw, while Francis Dumais, left, Paul Lesperance of Waverley, and Reed Rawn of Wyebridge look on.

Halfway House is designated

The Simcoe County, Muskoka-Parry Sound District Halfway House has been designated retroactive to March 1, 1975 by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, John McCullough, president of the Halfway House Board of Directors, announced today.

In a letter confirming the decision by the Minister, the Honourable Rene Brunelle, it was stated "We want to congratulate your board and Mr. Hugh Douglas, managing-director, on your collective abilities to piece together over the past few years the various fragments of funding in order to demonstrate your credibility as an organization in meeting the residential and rehabilitative needs of persons with alcohol problems".

McCullough pointed out that the House could not have become eligible for designation without the widespread support of area

individuals and organizations. He also emphasized that provincial designation covers only 80 percent of the total operation and capital costs. He expressed confidence that the continuing aid which will have to be community generated will be forthcoming.

McCullough stated, "The future funding is under consideration and plans are being developed to insure that the involved municipalities and individuals are encouraged to participate in community support."

To meet government requirements considerable renovation must be made to the house to increase bed capacity, meet fire safety requirements and provide better therapeutic facilities for the residents.

Both the Ministry and the directors feel that these requirements are well-founded and will add to the overall services which the House offers.



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