

Profile:

Frank Shulman, Midland's master wood-carver...

by Don Lawrence

Lumberjacks may be able to wield an axe to fell a tree, but few would be able to do what Frank Shulman of Midland can with a chainsaw.

Shulman sculpts, using a chainsaw, and pneumatic tools, adding he really doesn't like doing the clean up work as much as the rough work.

Shulman's reason behind his sculpting is very unclear, but says that it might have something to do with the fact that he likes to watch people work. He would like to have someone help him, but would settle for someone to watch him do the work.

Shulman got into woodcarving and sculpting quite accidentally about 20-25 years ago when his son Leib complained of nothing to do.

He told his son to take a knife and carve a bar of soap, but his son didn't know what he meant, so he showed him. It was as simple as

that, having never stopped experimenting since.

Shulman has never taken any woodworking lessons, although, he did take a welding course once, which he uses to create pieces in metal.

Soapstone

He has also worked in soapstone and other stones.

Shulman has no favorite material, with which to work, stating that he uses just about anything he can get his hands on.

An average sculpture will take Shulman about 20-40 hours of work to complete, and he estimates he will do about 50-100 sculptures a year.

In 1967, Shulman was commissioned to do some pieces for the Beverly Hills Motor Motel at Jane and Wilson Streets in Toronto, and in his time he has met many famous artists.

He once presented a small statue to A.Y.

Jackson, a member of the famed group of seven.

Shulman's sculpture of a nun reading a book won him a prize at the Canadian National Exhibition several years back.

Shulman attended the exhibition recently this year himself, and attended the wood-working show, which he says he likes to do as often and wherever he can.

Shulman really has no one source of inspiration, explaining that the wood is sometimes all the inspiration you can ask for.

Sometimes he just starts cutting, and continues until he sees something in the wood. Other times, he will have a certain statue in mind.

Shulman will admit that he has a passion for statues of nuns. He feels that it stems from his childhood when he attended a Catholic school, since then, having a certain respect for nuns.

Never able to accept things at face value, Shulman has always been drawn to look beneath the surface of things, finding all meanings and connotations hidden there.

Perhaps that is why he carves, always looking for something under the surface.

An artist's life is anything but boring, with something always happening.

A bear sculpture that he had sitting in front of his furniture store in downtown Midland, was sawed in half and taken away by college kids in the trunks of two cars several years ago.

They were caught though. It is supposed that they were taking the bear as a mascot for their fraternity.

One thing for sure, Shulman will never be entirely alone.

All he needs to do is to take a walk in the woods, and he can find himself among the little creatures of the forest, by simply looking beneath the surface of the wood.

Tiny Township council briefs

by Adrienne Graham Gardner

Tiny Township had made a grant of \$2,500 to the Elmvale Arena to assist in its renovation costs of \$60,000. Representatives from the arena board had requested \$5,000 earlier this spring, a figure arrived at through proportionate useage by Tiny residents.

Considerable debate preceded the decision to make the grant. Councillor John Butler felt that Tiny should use the money for her own parks, some of which are "in direct need of facilities."

Ron Hamelin was also opposed to the grant, saying "We're subsidizing a heck of a lot of things, and never ask for support for our parks, roads, dump or airport." Hamelin added that he doesn't "like to be assessed, but

a token grant in appreciation of the facilities would be fine."

Deputy-reeve John Lackie spoke in defense of the arena saying that Tiny should contribute toward facilities which are not available in the municipality. However, he objected to not being consulted on the "mainly cosmetic" work done to renovate the arena.

The resolution by Councillors Gabriel Brunelle and Ron Hamelin to make a grant of \$2,500 was finally passed unanimously, the money to go towards "capital costs" of the arena.

Accounts

Accounts to the 25th of August were passed by Tiny council in the following amounts:
General Accounts \$46,080

Roads - \$6,144

Water - \$202

Fire - \$305

Sabin Charlebois

(Access road to

Wyebridge Park) - \$972

Ainley and Associates

(Planning Board accounts) - \$4306

Waverley Monument

Committee - \$75

Waverley Recreation -

\$500

Tripp Construction

(Georgian Bay Estates

water system, payment

No. 9) - \$112,680

Home Renewal

Tiny will petition the

Ontario Ministry of

Housing for \$81,910 in

grants for 1980 under the

Ontario Home Renewal

Program.

TTPPB

Tiny has requested a

meeting with the area

board in order to resolve

matters raised by its

planner and the plan-

ning board in their

August 26th review of

the Area Plan.

Wyevale history present to Tiny

by Adrienne

Graham Gardner Mrs. Margaret Marcellus and Mrs. Winnifred Reynolds made the presentation of a copy of the official Wyevale Community History to Tiny Township at the Aug. 27 meeting of Tiny council.

The women were representing the Pine Ridge Women's Institute research committee who produced the volume. The Wyevale history was on display during the recent 100th anniversary weekend, and will be followed by another volume.

According to Mrs. Marcellus "There's still lots of history yet to collect."

In thanking the Wyevale delegation, Reeve Morris Darby commented that "It would be wonderful to have histories of all the communities in the municipality."

Councillor Ron Hamelin predicted that the Wyevale history will become part of an official archives planned for the township.

Appointments

The following ap-

pointments were made at the August 27th meeting of Tiny Council:

Planning Board--Gerard Genier and Ross Hastings
Committee of Adjustment--Len Moreau and Ralph Mertz
Parks and Recreation--Carol Withall, Elaine Hamelin, Ken Warrin
TTPPB--Gerard Genier and Peter Brasher
Library, Board - Louise Butler, Barbara Genier.


Cubs, Scouts registration for St. Mark's

The First Midland Cubs and Scouts will be holding their annual registration Monday, Sept. 15 beginning at 7 p.m. at St. Mark's Parish Hall.

Cost of this year's registration will be \$8.50 per boy, per year and all boys aged seven and older are welcome to attend. Each registering cub and scout must be accompanied by either a parent or guardian.


For more information, call 526-4138.

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