

WORK and WORKMANSHIP

By Bill Brearley

The title sounds like a recent tool ad. The thing that amazes me about creative work in the County of Prince Edward, is the high level of accomplishment with minimal equipment and high tech infrastructure.

A short while after our arrival in the county, I watched a Mr. Cole move a huge metal structure from a neighbour's property with a homebrew steel frame and tow truck. Another neighbour had moved a smaller building using his own version of low tech equipment. Neither case used a large "professional" organization.

I'm reminded of the ancient Greek mathematician-inventor who, with wood copper and iron, was able to terrify the fleet of Rome with his engines of destruction at the siege of his home city of Syracuse. One of his homemade machines was a parabolic reflector that set the Roman ships on fire, on a sunny day of course.

Enough of the past; to-day in Prince Edward County we seem to have some of this spirit of Archimedes. While walking round the Milford Pond, I stopped to talk to a retired "cat skinner" - i.e. heavy equipment operator. He was melting steel to rebuild a bearing surface on his lawn mower. Not for him a trip to a spare parts depot! At the other end of Milford is a small in-home shop that creates high tech tooling for the North American market.

Have you noticed the number of people who make pine furniture at home? From several places in the area we have obtained some lovely pine pieces. Many years ago Milford and Port Milford were known for ship building. These were not huge yards like Levis or Collingwood but small home built operations. I wonder if the creative juices flow in the soil and air of the County?



Have you noticed the house builders around here? They're not huge Tridel type conglomerates but small groups of men, sometimes a family. The houses go up one at a time. Why, my next door neighbour who was not in the building trade, designed and built his own house with some hired labour to ease the load and install specialty products.

One of these days the tourists will realize the value of the workmanship available here. So, if you want to get something built, it's best to get going before the "outsiders" discover "The County of Craftsmen" or should I say "The Craftsmen of the County?"

Deroche Sports World
 donated a ball glove to the South Marysburgh
 Minor Ball League. All Minor ball players names
 from the Township were put together and a draw
 was made by Don Ross on May 15th. The winner
 of the glove was
Christine Hudson
 Congratulations, Christine.

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