

# Claremont antique store opens

By DENISE McDONALD

It's a step towards ensuring their future, with a little help from their past.

On January 29, during Claremont's Winter Carnival, residents David and Mimi Forrest, opened the area's first antique store, 'Recollections,' on Brock Street.

"We had originally planned to open in the spring," said Mr. Forrest. "But we thought the carnival would be a better time because a lot of people were around and about in the area."

According to the long-time lawyer, since retired in September, he and his wife bought the old home and garage a year ago with views towards their retirement.

"We were both going to volunteer with CESO (Canadian Executive Services Overseas), and turn the back half of this building into an apartment," he said. "But unfortunately that didn't transpire because my wife found out she wasn't able to retire for another two years."

At the same time, the Forrests discovered their plans for building an apartment were futile, because their property is zoned commercial which prevented them from obtaining a permit for water and bathroom facilities.

Hence, plans for establishing their own antique store ensued.

"I've always been interested in antiques and have been working and refinishing them for years," said Mr. Forrest. "Because I also love auctions so much, we started getting more stuff than we could possibly use in the house. So last June we decided to open our own store."

Although the idea seemed easy enough, the Forrests were soon to discover implementation was not as simple.

"We had a terrible time getting it done because contractors hate working on old buildings," he explained. "Then I finally prevailed upon a client as a favor, but he could only give me four weeks. We ended up having a young fellow come in and do the work in his spare time. That's why it took so long."

Since opening, Mr. Forrest

says business has been slow.

"I don't think there are enough people in Claremont to support an antique store, so I have to rely on drawing from Stouffville, Uxbridge and the areas in between," he said. "But those people just aren't around in the winter. That's why I had originally planned on opening in the spring, which will

still be the date for our official opening."

Specializing in anything antique, Recollections offers items ranging from an old butcher block, hobby horse, and wool winder, to formal furniture, a harvest table and homemade wash stand.

"I'm originally from a farm and rather like primitive things.

I also like homemade things. They don't have the smoothness manufactured items do, but they are unique," he said. "I even have a wooden wheel I fell in love with, although I'm darned if I know what anyone would do with it."

As well, wife Mimi belongs to a group of teachers who make quilts, which are now being

offered for sale at Recollections.

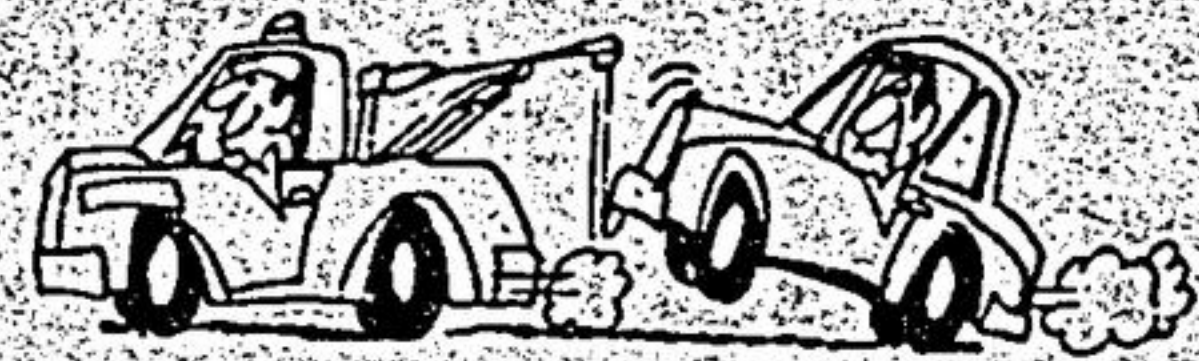
"We still hope to go with CESO someday, at which time we hope our daughter Megan will take over the store," he added.

Recollections is open Monday, Thursday and Saturday, noon until 6 p.m. and Friday, noon until 8:30 p.m.

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Mayor Carole Bell



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