

# Shearman engines hum

If you're a farmer your yield depends on good plowing, if you're a potter, it's centering that's basic. A machinist and a flight engineer aim for the hum of precision and a model train hobbyist, for a smooth clickety clack on tracks.

At the age of 64, Bernie Shearman of Markham knows these fields and has applied his characteristic blend of perfectionism and patience to fine tune them all.

Until Reiter's syndrome, a genetic form of arthritis, combined with a sluggish economy forced him to close shop, Shearman ran The Wheel House from an industrial unit on Heritage Rd.

From 1980 to 1990 he designed and produced potter's wheels and taught students the art he'd learned to love.

Two of his models are in frequent use around Markham today; the Goodwood wheel for small production and the Shearman wheel, a no-nonsense 30-inch concrete fly wheel for large clay pots. Shearman's own

introduction to pottery came while farming in North Kent England with a winter interest course at a local school. "I loved it right from the start," said Shearman, who promptly set up a wheel in his garage.

Shearman moved to Canada in 1969 with wife Margaret and children, Nick, Sally and Gemma. Although it was Margaret who first urged Bernie to take pottery classes (her own attempts went flying off the wheel), Sally became proficient enough to run her own custom shop specializing in earthenware. Today she prefers to create to her own specs and inspiration. She's a special education teacher in Richmond Hill with two of dad's wheels to support her hobby.

Shearman says he worked most often in stoneware and could lose himself for three hours at a time when the work was going well. "You can be working along and then get stuck. I've learned to overcome the obstacle by letting it be,

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