

Brothers earn international gem cutting honors

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ther was a gem cutter in that small German town and his master gem cutting certificate hangs on the wall in the Wobitos Stouffville workshop.

The elder Wobito taught Ralph and Rudi's father Alfred the trade and the two of them set up a gem cutting shop in Mexico employing 50 people in the 1950s.

In 1956, Alfred moved to Canada, where he worked as a gem cutter before establishing his own business in 1968 in Toronto.

Ralph and Rudi worked part-time for their dad in the early

1970s, learning the gem cutting trade. They would recite the refractive indexes of different stones for their father until they had them consigned to memory.

They came on full-time after their schooling was done.

In the mid-1970s Ralph went out to learn the jewellery making, setting and casting trade to broaden the scope of his abilities.

When their father died in 1980, Ralph and Rudi took over the family business, eventually moving it to Stouffville, where the brothers set up residence.

While the brothers have used Ralph's expanded training to

expand the business to include jewellery making and related work, they are still primarily occupied with gem cutting.

Their customers come from all over the world as their reputation continues to build.

While they have few peers, they are constantly

having to compete against those for whom imitation comes at the expense of the ultimate precision the Wobitos have mastered.

In the Orient, gem cutting is a vast industry, with the cutters paid the equivalent of a few dollars a day for their work.

So it's up to the Wobitos

to remain on the cutting edge of the industry, so to speak, fashioning different gem configurations and specialty creations.

Judging by their recent success at the American Gem Trade Association competition, it would appear they are equal to the challenge.

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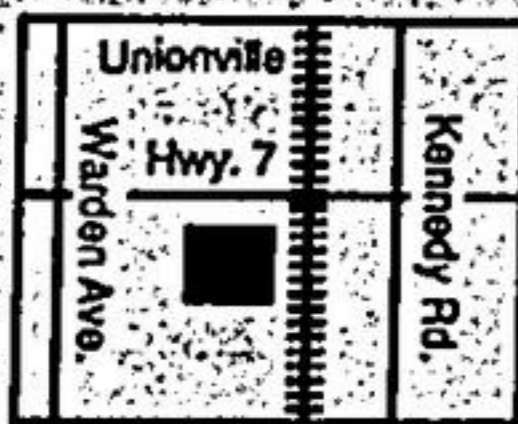
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