

Experience A  
COUNTRY CHRISTMAS  
The Tribune

Hand-made quilts to be auctioned at Stouffville Country Craft Show

P12 TRIBUNE, NOVEMBER 27, 1996

By KATE GILDERDALE  
Correspondent

Long, painstaking hours go into the making of a Mennonite quilt - just ask Marica Marton-Wiles, whose beautiful handmade quilts will be up for auction at the Stouffville Country Market Nov. 30.

The Hungarian native learned her craft from a member of Mount Forest's Mennonite community, who has been her mentor since the two

women met eight years ago. A bank executive for 25 years, Marton-Wiles quit her job and was planning to take courses at the University of Guelph when she was side-tracked by a roadside sign advertising home made jams and pickles.

"I spent all my university money on them and started going to outdoor markets. I kept adding things like baked goods and maple syrup, all made with the

Mennonite focus, and then I moved to Mount Forest."

It was the mother of one of her Mennonite friends who taught her traditional quilt-making, a skill which was complemented by her background in interior design.

"While I was working at the bank I was also doing that and she and I started out designing together."

Marton-Wiles now creates her own blueprints

and employs 250 Mennonite women to make the intricate and unique quilts which have become her trademark. "Traditionally women worked in quilting bees of six to eight, but sometimes it's difficult for different people to create the same-size stitch, so I have a single person working on each quilt from start to finish."

The quilts are hand-stitched, with eight to 10 stitches per inch. "We use the finest of cottons and we consider the quilt should last from 50 to 100 years - it's a

three-generation heirloom."

The cost for materials alone is about \$300 and a single quilt can take years to complete. "The value of the ones at the auction will range from \$600 to \$2,500 and there is no reserve price on any of them," she noted. "A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to children's charities."

Marton-Wiles now works full-time designing and selling her quilts and other traditional Mennonite goods, and will be a regular vendor at Stouffville Country

Market from next April. "I am one of only five Canadian quilt designers who do this on a full-time basis," she noted.

The quilt auction takes place Saturday, Nov. 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of the Stouffville Country Craft Show at the market.

The show will feature the work of more than 75 crafters and runs Nov. 29 from 4 to 9 p.m.; Nov. 30 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Parking and admission are free and youngsters are invited to drop by and meet Santa.

**Have A Holly Dolly Christmas!**

**THE ASHTON-DRAKE GALLERIES**  
Bringing You Dolls of Irresistible Value

"Snug As A Bug, Cute As A Button, Clean As A Whistle, Pretty As A Picture"

**BROWN'S GALLERY**  
12585 Tenth Line (north of Salesbarn)  
(905) 642-3606

**We Make All your Dishes Come True!**

THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE

"Santa's Favorite Helpers"      March 23, 1994 Historic "802nd"

"Safe and Sound"      "An Angel's Touch"

**UXBRIDGE Bowl**

NOW HAS AUTOMATIC SCORING!

Watch for our re-opening specials Nov. 30

Great fresh specials daily

Merry Christmas to all from the staff  
69 Brock St. W.  
(905) 852-3141

**FAME MEN'S HAIRSTYLING**

6180 MAIN ST. STOUFFVILLE **640-3549**

*Why look to the rest - When you get the best*

- Steps from the Stouffville GO Station
- Appointments available, but not necessary

Serving Stouffville Since 1967

• ART LINE • DECOR-REST • CROWN DESIGN • LEXINGTON • AP • BERMEX • UNIVERSAL • LEDA • EQUUS FABRICS • HPL

**PRE-BOXING DAY SALE**  
**ORDER NOW & BEAT 1997 PRICES**

**ARTLINE CURIO CABINETS**

- Crystal lead doors
- Mahogany or Heritage Cherry
- 3 beautiful styles to choose from
- Matching Coffee & End Tables available with the same quality workmanship

**ON SALE NOW**  
"Make someone's Christmas Dream come true"

**TV & WALL UNITS**

- Beautiful, magnificent, solid maple from the Heritage Collection
- 3 colours to choose from

**ON SALE NOW**

**KITCHEN & DINING ROOM SETS**

CANADIAN - SOLID MAPLE  
Harvest Table & 4 Chairs. Choice of stain and colour.  
Reg. \$1995 **SPEC. \$1499.**  
Buffer & Hutch also available.

**BEDROOM SUITE**

BEAUTIFUL - SOLID MAPLE sleigh bedroom suite - **ON SALE NOW**

4 pcs. **\$3499.**

**DECOR REST CHAIRS**

From the HERITAGE COLLECTION **ON SALE NOW**  
Sofas & Love Seats also on Special

**SAVE on Simmons All-Star Line-up**

**SIMMONS Beautyrest Independent-Action Support System**

For the ultimate in comfort, support and durability, Simmons Beautyrest system, with the unique, patented pocket-coil construction, is in a class all on its own.

Simmons has a quality sleep product to suit every comfort and support preference, and every individual budget.

T.M. Simmons I.P. Inc. Registered User Simmons Canada Inc.

**NO GST & PST or 6 mos. Interest Free**

**Stouffville Furniture & Accessories**

**OPEN:**  
Mon.-Wed. 10-7:30  
Thurs.-Fri. 10-8:30  
Saturday 9-6  
Sunday 12-5

5402 Main St., Stouffville  
**642-6828**

Get Your Boxing Day Prices before Christmas

Don't Forget Our 25% off Catalogue Orders

ASK ABOUT OUR LAYAWAY PLAN

SALE ENDS DEC. 15, 1996

• ART LINE • DECOR-REST • CROWN DESIGN • LEXINGTON • AP • BERMEX • UNIVERSAL • LEDA • EQUUS FABRICS • HPL