

Local artist gives new meaning to term 'house painter'

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Correspondent

Many people think of their home as an extension of themselves, a place which not only provides shelter, but reflects their personality.

Stouffville resident Christine Parsons Wood is a qualified architect who paints custom watercolours of homes, pets or favourite scenes for her clients and who knows first hand how much a house can mean to its owners.

"I had done some freelance work after I graduated and then I started to do watercolours about 10 years ago," said Wood. "Artistic ability runs in my family - my parents, brother and sister are all creative."

One fall, when she was living in Burlington, her work was featured in The Hamilton Spectator.

"It was a couple of months before Christmas and I got a lot of exposure and response through that," she recalled. "People particularly liked the fact that this was a unique gift."

Wood and her family moved to the Stouffville area five years ago and she is now getting a number of commissions through referrals from other clients.

As a shy individual, her biggest challenge is to promote what she does. "I didn't know how to market it, but I eventually came up with a way."

She would paint a house which appealed to her, make a photocopy of her work, tie it with a ribbon and drop it into the owner's mailbox. "I'd write a note telling them to phone me if they were interested (in buying). I don't want people to feel any obligation. I think they

should have time to think through their decision without pressure."

In the two years since she started using this approach, "I have been able to sell 80 per cent of my paintings. People see them and fall in love with them."

Wood is happy to work from photographs supplied by the homeowner, even if the quality is not perfect.

"When they bring the photo, we decide on size and a season, and when I'm finished and show it to them, if they want to make any minor changes I am willing to do that, because I want them to be totally satisfied."

Although not a winter person, she now leans towards winter as the most effective

setting for the homes she paints.

"The white around the house acts like a frame."

One client ordered four paintings of the family home for his children, each depicting a different season, "and the children ended

up fighting over the winter scene."

Although homes make up most of her commission work, she is also an accomplished landscape artist, and is happy to show clients her watercolours.

For more information, call 640-5647.

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Profiles of Success ...



Staff at the River Valley Restaurant are from left: Jason Bell, Zoli Gyursan, Ibi, Charles and Irene Turcsik.

New owners at River Valley Restaurant

If you haven't been to River Valley Restaurant in Uxbridge for a while, Charles and Irene Turcsik suggest you drop in.

The couple took over the family restaurant a month ago and have made many changes.

Using experience gained working in Europe, Charles creates

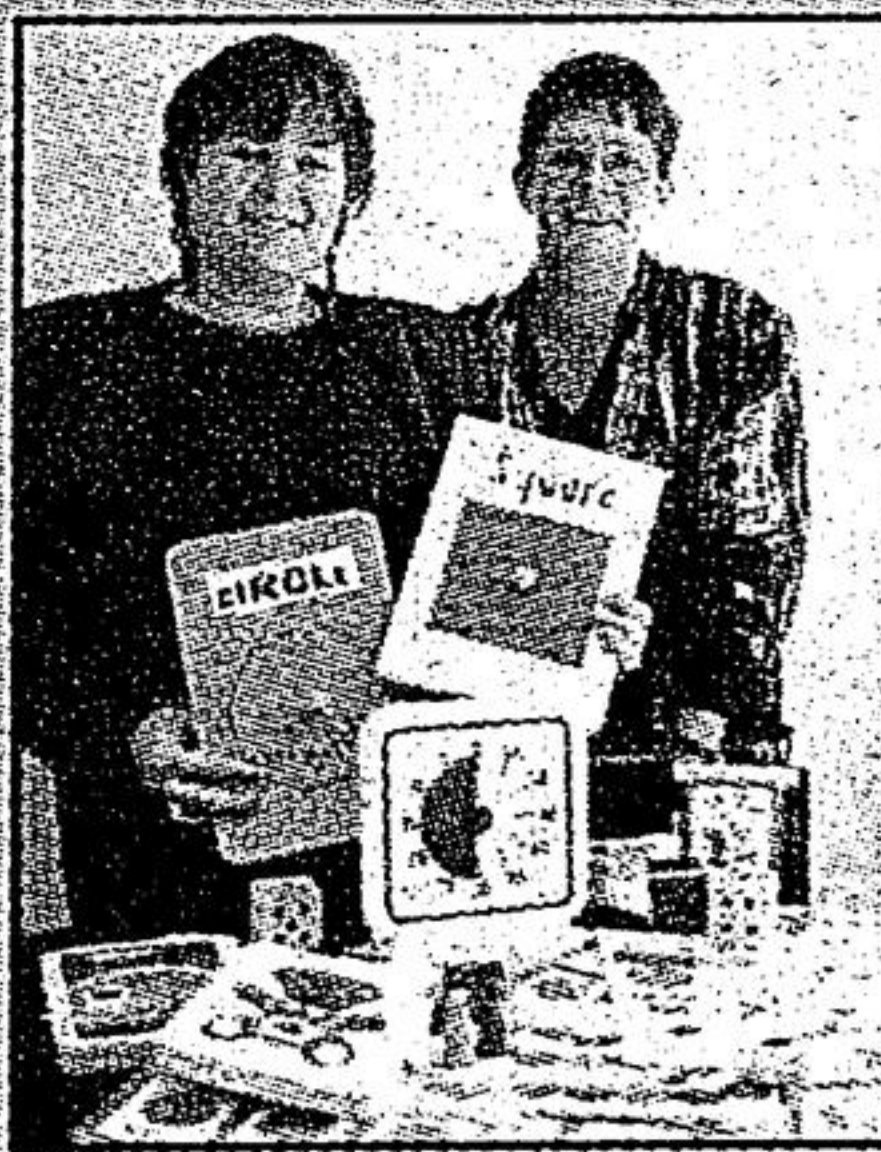
homemade seafood, steak and pasta dishes as well as desserts.

But the restaurant doesn't only serve great tasting, inexpensive food, they also have entertainment on the weekends.

The restaurant is located at 39 Toronto St. For details: 905-852-4343.

Company produces learning games for children and adults with special needs

Thanks to Robin Spataro and Trish Clifford there are now games on the market for children and adults with special needs.



Trish Clifford and Robin Spataro help make learning easy.

Photo by LISA CARTWRIGHT

After a fruitless search for learning tools for her autistic son Nicolas, Robin approached Trish with an idea.

"Trish knew how to make my dream a reality."

And Puzzling Thoughts was born. The company produces non-toxic, brightly coloured games and puzzles, as well as laminated communication cards and puzzles with rounded edges.

For a catalogue or details call: 416-410-3595.



How does this look as a PART TIME JOB?

If you're looking for a part-time job but all you're finding is likely to just bore you silly, maybe you should try this: become a scout for a brigade of the Canadian Army.

The Queen's York Rangers have been here in York Region since settlement began. Now a regiment of the Army Reserve, the Rangers do all their training on Wednesday evenings and on plenty of weekends.

If you're physically fit, at least 17, a Canadian or a landed immigrant and have at least 15 Ontario high school credits, you can apply. It's more than just a job.



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Photo by LISA CARTWRIGHT

Wonderful discoveries awaiting those who shop at Great Finds

You'll never know what you'll discover at Great Finds in Uxbridge.

William Bragelline opened his store on Brock Street in Uxbridge to help people in their search for the perfect antique, mosaic, pottery, and more. One day, he found a beautiful mosaic tile.

Others never know what they will find because the items in her store keep changing.

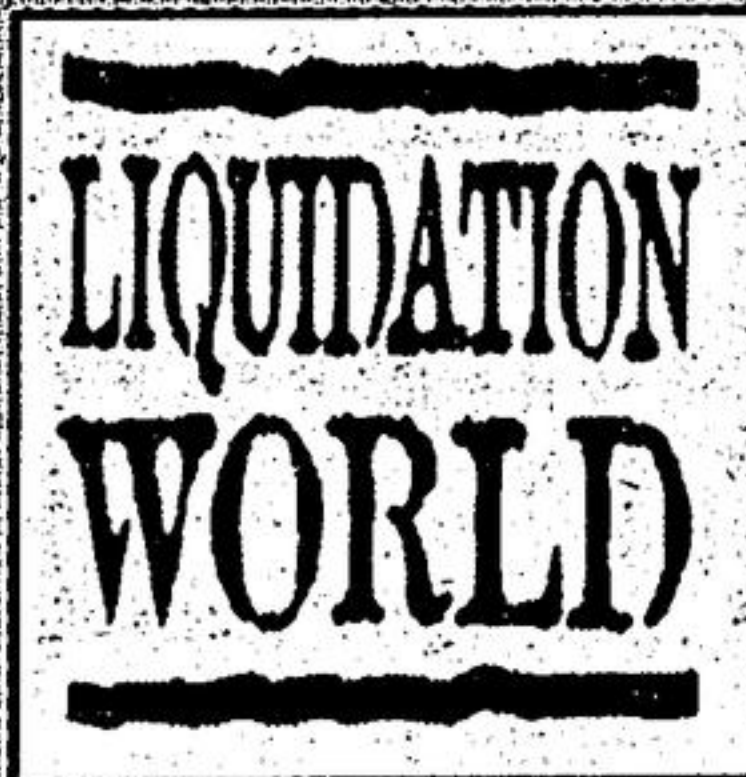
One day, she found a beautiful mosaic tile. Great Finds is always looking for artists.

The Liquidation World's short story

We Buy - No deal is too big and none too small. Know where to shop, for value. They come back regularly to see our continually changing selection of bargains.

Our deal hunters are always looking for new merchandise of our outlets and weekly auctions. Cash for distress inventory - 1-888-254-0848

We are experts at solving all types of inventory problems and distress situations. Liquidation World is located at 4 Banff Rd Uxbridge. For details call 905-852-0677. Liquidation World is open to the public.



We Sell - Quality merchandise of all descriptions (some deals even defy descriptions) at prices well below regular retail. Monday to Friday from 10 am to 9 pm, Saturday from 9 am to 5:30 pm and Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm.

Our Customers - 5 pm

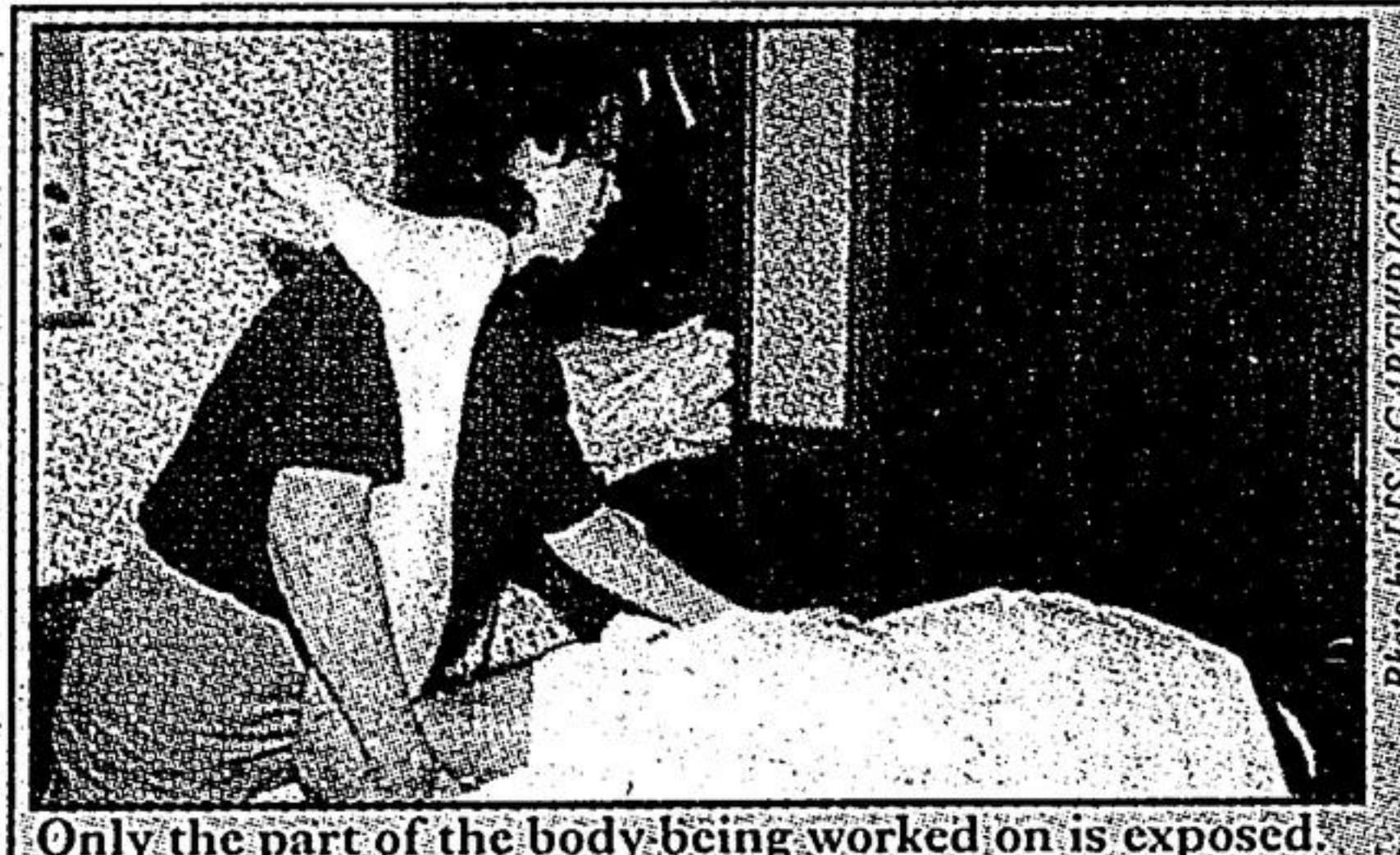


Photo by LISA CARTWRIGHT

Only the part of the body being worked on is exposed. A massage therapist can help relieve tension as well as other problems

People with migraines, whiplash, chronic pain, arthritis, muscle spasm, pregnancy and more can benefit from a therapeutic massage.

A registered massage therapist is able to work the soft tissues of the body to relieve not only tension, but other serious ailments, said Heather Bull, BA, RMT, who

works at the Begg Chiropractic Centre on 290 Hwy. 47-S.

"When the client and the therapist work in tandem together, success is inevitable," said Bull.

And right now, new patients will receive a free health kit.

For details: 905-852-9700