

SPORTS & LEISURE

Keeping dying art alive

Taxidermist busy despite profession's drop in popularity

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

There have been fish at his doorstep and game near his garage.

After 40 years in the taxidermy business, Doug Fagg could probably write a novel about customers who bring him their prized possessions.

People have dropped off fish or game near the doorstep of his Mount Albert residence.

Other clients have left their possessions near his garage door, with or without a name attached.

If that's not enough, customers have asked Mr. Fagg to recreate their possessions to near-living proportions from a less-than-ideal preserved state.

Then there are those who just plain forget or can't be bothered to pick up their mounts.

"You wouldn't believe some of the stuff that comes in here," Mr. Fagg says with a laugh.

Describing his work as an artist recreating a fish

or animal using the real skin of that species, Mr. Fagg's profession is dwindling in popularity.

In the name of conservation, anglers these days purchase replica mounts.

These include, for the most part, fish an individual has caught and taken pictures of, along with recording length and girth measurements prior to returning the fish to water, and giving the information to those proficient in making replica mounts.

Combine that with cost in uncertain economic times and it has put a dent in some taxidermy operations.

Despite this, Mr. Fagg is busy and maintains a strong passion for his trade.

Mr. Fagg says he has the good fortune of having a wife in the workforce who is understanding.

"It's labour intensive," Mr. Fagg says of his profession, which he began playing around with when he was 17 out of his love of angling and hunting.

"There's no monetary benefits there. If it wasn't for my wife doing what she does for a living (working with a school board), I couldn't do what I do," he acknowledges.



STAFF PHOTO/ROB ALARY

Doug Fagg could write a novel about the strange experiences he has had in 40 years of taxidermy, including people who have left fish and game at his doorstep and near his garage.

"You can only charge what the going rate is or what the economy will predict. If I did taxidermy work for money, I wouldn't have a lot of work.

"A lot of people I do business with are blue collar individuals, so I try to keep (our prices) down to around \$350 to \$400 for a deer head instead of \$800.

I'm not making a lot of money," he explains, adding he does trapping

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CPGA pros play it where it lies

BY JOHN CUDMORE
Staff Writer

Coming home isn't always what it's cracked up to be.

Sure, it's nice to get a taste of home cookin' and sleep in a familiar bed. But if it's all the same, David Morland IV would just as soon be hanging his hat and whacking golf balls many miles from hometown Aurora this particular week.

Fact is, he's not unlike most of the participants entered in this week's Samsung Canadian PGA Championship at DiamondBack Golf Club near Richmond Hill, who would prefer to be swinging their clubs elsewhere. Like, say, the Buick Open in Harrison, N.Y., this week's stop on the PGA Tour.

"I thought about going to the Buick and trying to qualify, but if I don't (qualify) then I'm facing a nine or 10-hour drive to get here," explained Mr. Morland, 33, from his parents' home earlier this week. "There's always a little indecisiveness and you have to be careful not to spread yourself too thin."

Such is the state of limbo of players bouncing between the PGA Tour and its satellite Buy.com Tour, as Mr. Morland does on a regular basis. It's rarely confirmed until the Tuesday or Wednesday if his number is to be called from the pool of PGA Tour alternates, or if he should start packing the car for that long drive to the next destination on the Buy.com Tour.

Players on satellite tours are credence to that familiar golfer's refrain: Play the ball where it lies. No matter in which that city might be.

"That's the hardest thing," said Mr. Morland, an alternate on the PGA Tour, where he was a regular in 2001. "If you're the second or third alternate, you may stick around. I just have to take it as it comes."

Much as a poll of all 156 entrants in

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