

Autism Event To Raise Funds, Awareness

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville Free Press

Together for Autism, which takes place May 5 at the Lebovic Leisure Centre, is a community initiative to raise funds and promote awareness of autism.

"There will be an information table available, awareness sessions in the swim classes and a silent auction with some great items, courtesy of our local

businesses," said Micole Ongman, program/aquatic supervisor at the centre.

"Silent auction bids will be accepted all week starting on April 30, and winners will be selected May 5. Or you can just drop by and donate a toonie to put your name on a link in our friendship awareness chain."

For more information call 905-640-1910 ext. 323.

Horticultural Society Welcomes Herb Specialist

By Kate Gilderdale
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Conrad Richter, president of Richters Herbs in Goodwood, will be the guest speaker at Stouffville Horticultural Society's meeting at 8 p.m. on May 28 at the United Church.

Mr. Richter will bring a selection of herbs which will be offered for sale during the evening. The society usu-

ally meets on the third Monday of each month, but because of the Victoria Day holiday, the May meeting has been postponed until the last week of the month.

Anyone who is interested in gardening, and who would like an opportunity to meet other enthusiasts for an informative and lively get together, is invited to attend. Membership fees are just \$10 a year and new members are always welcome.

Juried Exhibition features Ontario Artists



These two beautiful paintings are among the works selected for the Annual Juried Exhibition, which continues until May 12 at the Latcham Gallery. Seen here are *Mom* by Kendall Ayoub and *All The While Remaining Upright* by Campbell Walker. The Gallery's next exhibition is *Celebrations 2007*, featuring art by local elementary students, and runs May 16 to 23.

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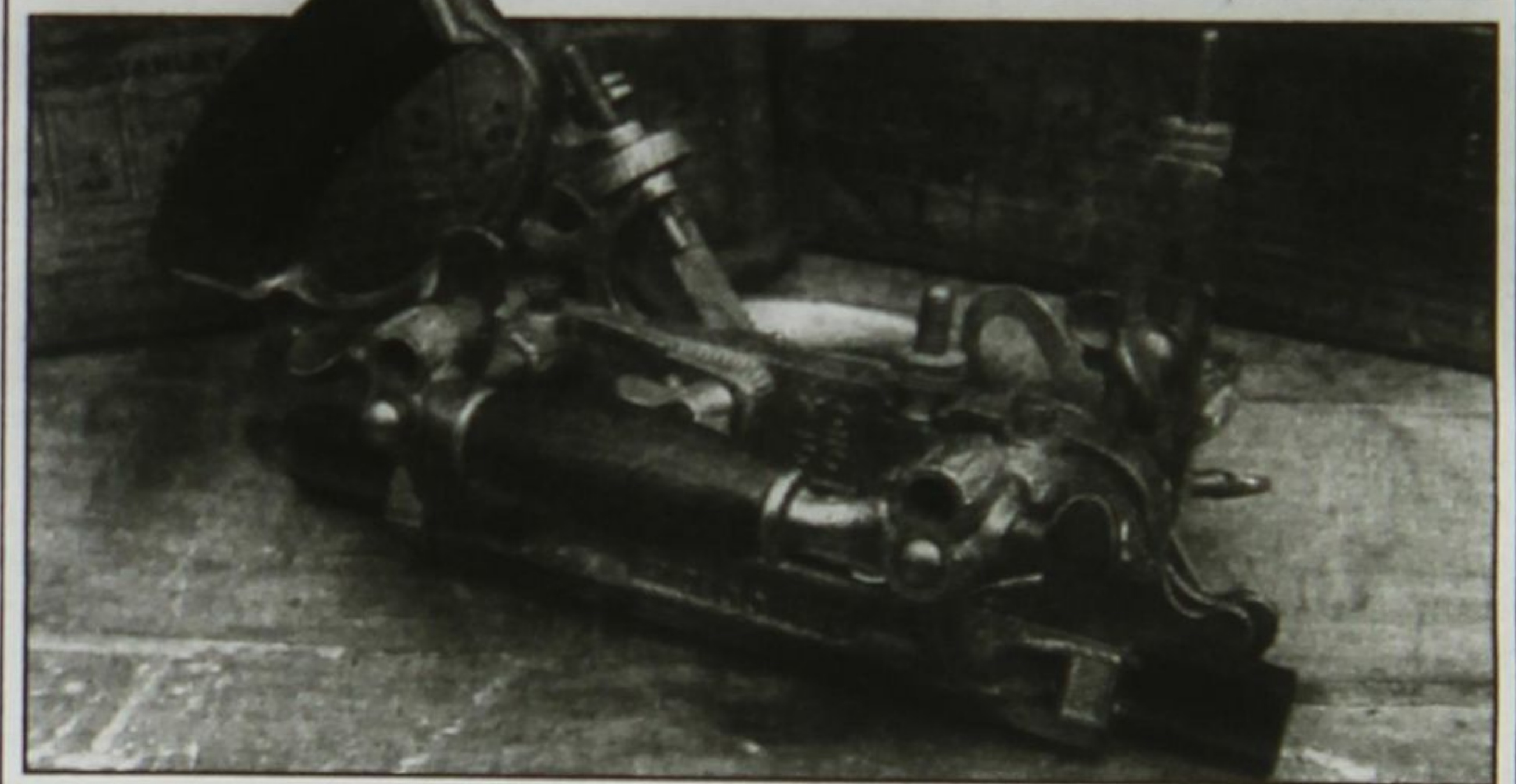
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Treasures and Heirlooms



By Rob Reid

May your May be sunny and warm. Here we have a great vintage tool. It is a Stanley #55 combination wood plane that comes with 55 different cutters, or blades! This tool is used to create mouldings of any shape or style that is commonly found. When this tool was produced the Stanley Company marketed it with the slogan: "A Planing Mill Within Itself".

The Stanley Rule & Level Company started in 1850 in New Britain, Connecticut, USA and first manufactured metal planes in 1869. At that time metal planes were practically unknown in the woodworking industry while the wood plane was a strong and well established field, so this was a bold move for the company to make. However it was a successful one and by 1900 Stanley had become one of the largest makers of woodworking tools and had gained a growing reputation for quality and innovation. They were always responding to the demands of their customers for new and improved products.

One of their basic techniques of expansion was to buy a company that was producing a product that they wanted to add to their inventory. This gave them a known and proven product along with the factories, patents, trade names and even the trained employees, while at the same time eliminating competition.

In 1920 the Stanley Rule & Level Company was bought out by Stanley Works, a massive manufacturing corporation that produced a wide range

of products from building hardware to bulk steel. This was essentially a merger of two similar businesses and very little changed in the operation of the company other than the name, which became the Stanley Rule & Level Plant and in 1935 was officially renamed the *Stanley Tools Division of the Stanley Works*. This company maintained their dominance of the plane business until the end of WWII when the advent of the electric driven tool resulted in a sharp decline in demand for hand tools.

Tool collectors are always on the lookout for vintage Stanley tools. And as with most antiques and collectibles condition is everything. In this market the collector is competing not only with other tool collectors but with woodworkers who recognize the quality and value of the older Stanley tools and want them for their practical use. Most collectors will pay a premium for tools in excellent condition, while the craftsman is more interested in usability. This plane was made prior to 1915 and has all 55 blades and original hardware. It would appeal primarily to the woodworker rather than the collector due to its condition and would generally sell for between \$700 and \$900.

I welcome inquiries about any objects and look forward to seeing and perhaps writing about them. Please forward a photo and a description to me through Stouffville Free Press or drop the material off at Reid's Antiques, 6397 Main St. Stouffville during regular business hours or via my website at reidsantiques.com.

Whitchurch-Stouffville
Chamber of Commerce



Annual GOLF Tournament

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Sleepy Hollow Golf Club

13242 Tenth Line, Stouffville
(North of Stouffville Rd.)

Entry Fee \$160 includes ...

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- 18 Holes of Golf & Shared Power Cart
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