

TREASURES and Heirlooms



By Rob Reid

A warm and sunny August to all. Here we have a nice colourful vase made by Moorcroft Potteries of Burslem, England. Moorcroft pottery has been producing excellent pottery since 1897 and it has been said that they are one of the most recognized and important names in 20th century British art pottery. The technique that they use was first developed by William Moorcroft and involves a raised slip style of decoration that soon became distinctive to the Moorcroft name. With the death of William in 1945 the company was taken over by his son, Walter, who in turn retired in 1987 with his son John continuing the family business.

With such a long history of making pottery, it is surprisingly easy to date and identify Moorcroft pieces with the proper references. As the signatures, labels and impressed marks on the base, combined with the pattern of the piece, changed throughout the history of the company, this generally gives one enough information to arrive at an accurate date of production. The quality of pottery produced has been consistently excellent over its history and can be readily appreciated when looking at and handling a piece.

William Moorcroft received a Royal Warrant in 1928 from Queen Mary for his work and after his death, the

skill of his son Walter allowed the company to maintain the use of that warrant until 1978. (Royal Warrants expire 25 years after the death of the Monarch.) The company survived the Second World War mainly because of their export trade, and as a result there are many fine examples to be found in North America. However with the rise in popularity and price, many of these pieces are going back to collectors in the European market.

Here in Canada, it was fairly common from the 1930's to the mid 1950's to find Moorcroft pottery in your small town jewellery and gift stores. It was often given as a wedding gift as it was moderately priced and quite in fashion. The vase pictured here is a nice example of a pansy design and is approximately 4.5 inches tall. This design was originally produced with white and pale green grounds starting around 1911. This is a later variation with the dark grounds that are characteristic of the 1920 to 1925 pieces. The pansy motif is still a popular style with collectors and would sell for \$450 to \$650 in today's market.

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 them off at Reid's Antiques, 6397 Main St. Stouffville during regular business hours or via my website at reidsantiques.com.

Willowgrove receives grant for anti- bullying curriculum

A three thousand dollar Schlegel fund grant was awarded to Willowgrove in Stouffville to develop a curriculum focused on anti-bullying.

Willowgrove consists of a primary school, outdoor education centre and two camps. As the Greater Toronto Area is one of the most diverse metropolitan areas in the world, "fostering respect and understanding of other cultures is critical to peaceful co-existence," said Ron de Roo, Willowgrove's executive director. The organization is rooted in the Mennonite faith and seeks to provide leadership by offering programs with an emphasis on non-violent conflict resolution.

The Schlegel fund was established in memory of the late Wilfred Schlegel, a visionary minister and leader in the Western Ontario Mennonite Church conference, and provides one time venture capital grants of up to \$15,000 annually. Preference is given to new church-based initiatives that demonstrate vision and have a positive impact on the broader community.

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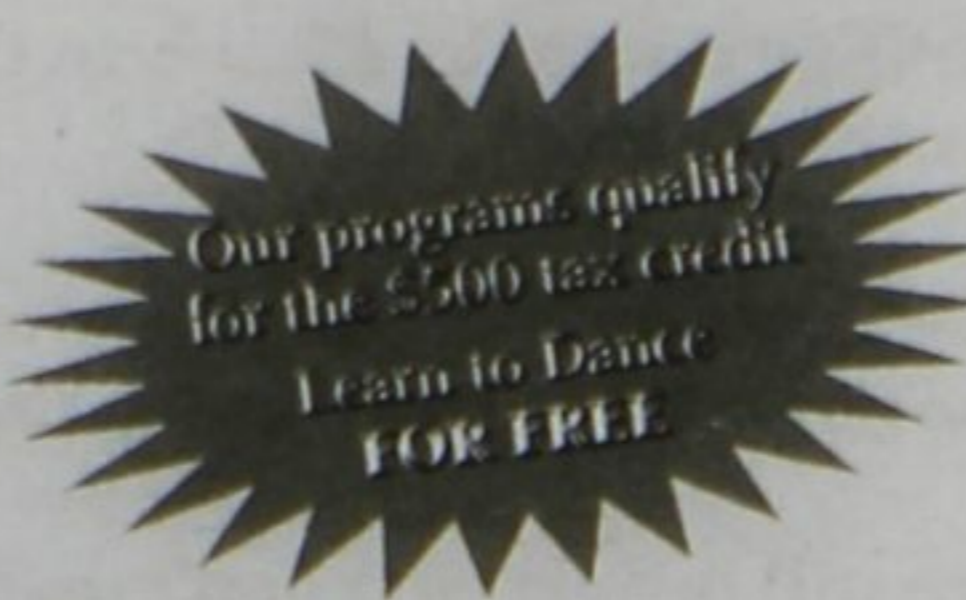
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