

Treasures and Heirlooms

By Rob Reid

Here we have a pair of glasses that are part of a set of six in a pattern that is referred to as either ruby thumbprint or King's Crown.

Two different companies are best known for the production of this pattern of glassware, namely the Indiana Glass Company and the Tiffin glass company. However, Adams and Co, of Pittsburgh, PA are credited with the original design first documented around 1890.

Tiffin glass produced a wide range of dinnerware and household items such as vases and ashtrays. Today certain pieces are sought after by collectors.

Tiffin was a small company that merged with the United States Glass Company of Pittsburgh, PA in 1892 and was one of 19 factories of the corporation. Originally items produced at the Tiffin, Ohio site were identified with a paper label with the letters USG within a gold-coloured shield. In 1927 that changed to a gold paper label with TIFFIN superimposed on a large "T" within a shield.

This site continued to produce items marked with a variety of paper labels until May 1980, when the factory ceased production. During these years, ownership changed hands numerous times. In 1991 the Tiffin Glass Collector Club purchased the shield trademark.

Distinguishing the Tiffin's King's Crown pattern from the Indiana's Thumbprint pattern is very hard

unless the piece actually still has a label attached. About the only thing to look for is that the Tiffin variety seems to have a shiny or 'flashed' appearance as opposed to Indiana's, which seems to have used a solid even coloured glass in the process.

This set of wine goblets are approximately five and a half inches tall and have the opalescent or shiny look of Tiffin glass. They were produced in the 1960s and are a fairly common item. However finding them with original labels is hard to do and these, or any other items with original labels, are appreciated and sought after by the Tiffin collector.

With any item, condition is always a factor and especially so when it comes to glass. Unfortunately one of these goblets has a small chip in the base which makes it worthless. The other goblets would sell in today's market for \$15 to \$20 each.

There are at least 87 different pieces of dinnerware in the King's Crown pattern. Most commonly found today in plain crystal or the ruby and clear variations, the pattern was also produced in a variety of other colours including cobalt blue, yellow, gold, green, milk glass and 'stained' amethyst. Engraved giftware variations were also made for the tourist market at the turn of the last century and may fetch a 15 to 30 per cent premium,



depending upon condition.

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.

Heritage Railway lines up events for 2006

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville Free Press

York Durham Heritage Railway (YDHR) starts its 2006 season on June 4, with Sunday service between Stouffville and Uxbridge until Oct. 15.

This season, the regular schedule will operate only on Sundays, with Saturdays reserved for special runs and activities. Round trips leave Uxbridge station at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Stouffville GO station at 1 p.m.

Return fares are \$18 for adults and \$12 for children aged 2 to 12. Tickets for seniors over 65 and students aged 13 to 17 are \$15. Children under 2 and seniors over 90 travel free. A family pass for up to two adults and three children is \$50, with group discounts and one-way

fares also available.

This year's special event trips include Father's Day on June 18, the Stouffville Strawberry Festival on the Canada Day long weekend, a Teddy Bear Run on July 2 and trips to Doors Open Unionville on Aug. 26 and 27. Halloween trains will run Oct. 28 and 29, and Santa Claus will take to the tracks in early December.

The train, which is wheelchair accessible from Uxbridge station, is also available for birthday groups, company and church picnics, school field trips and other community or family events. For charter and group rates call 905-852-3696 or email info@yhdr.on.ca. Visit www.yhdr.on.ca for more details on YDHR, the only heritage railway in the GTA.



YDHR crew members Stuart Buchanan and Bob Sparks take a break from their duties on the heritage train, which starts its 2006 season on June 4.

Kathryn Dean, a student volunteer with the York Durham Heritage Railway, is seen taking care of business at the snack counter.

Local cancer survivor celebrates her victory at Relay for Life

When the Canadian Cancer Society holds its signature fundraiser, Relay For Life, on June 23 at the Markham Museum, Stouffville resident Bettyanne Pajot will participate in the Survivors' Victory Lap, the ceremonial first lap that begins each event.

"Relay For Life is a celebration of life," said Bettyanne. "And the Survivors' Victory Lap reminds everyone just how precious life is. Our presence is proof that the fight against cancer can be won."

The Relay is one of the Cancer Society's greatest sources of funding. Held in numerous communities across Ontario, the event brings together thousands of people united in their vision of a world where no one fears cancer. Teams of 10 rally together in a fun, non-competitive environment to walk, run or stroll around a track for 12 hours through the night.

"Seeing how the community comes together for the cancer cause is truly

amazing," said Andrea Fraser, fundraising coordinator at the local Society office. Thanks to the support of residents in Whitchurch-Stouffville and Markham, the Cancer Society is able to offer a number of local support services, such as rides to and from cancer-related appointments, caring support to people living with cancer or their caregivers, and assistance to people at cancer treatment centres and lodges.

In addition to a night of fun and entertainment, Relay For Life also features the Luminary Ceremony, a special opportunity for participants to honour the lives of loved ones who have survived or lost the battle to cancer. At dusk, lit candles are placed along the track, creating a moving and inspiring scene.

For more information about Relay For Life or to make a donation, please contact your local Society office at 905-294-5925 or visit www.cancer.ca.

Music Festival welcomes Men of Note

The 17th annual Music Festival, part of Strawberry Festival week, will be held June 28 at Stouffville United Church at 8 p.m.

The event will feature the Men of Note, a 45-voice choir directed by Dr. Margot Rejskind, along with soloist Susan Brown and other participants from within the community. The choir's accompanist is John Mole.

Net proceeds from the free-will offering will go to the Student Music Scholarship Fund. Donations will also

be received for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank. A highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the 2006 Music Town, Ontario award which will go to an individual who has generously contributed his/her time and talents to our town's musical heritage. Last year's recipient, Laurie D'Alessandro, will conduct the ceremony.

The winner of the award will ride in the July 1 Strawberry Festival parade.