

TREASURES AND HEIRLOOMS

Copper Pieces Crafted by Disabled WW I Veterans

By Rob Reid

This is a little group of hand hammered copper pieces that were made in Toronto by Canadian veterans of the First World War. They bear the mark of Vetcraft Industries, which came to be as a result of an occupational therapy program developed and offered by the Military Hospitals in Toronto after the First World War to provide training and employment to disabled veterans.

The Vetcraft workshop in Toronto was initially located in a mansion on College Street which is today used by the University of Toronto as the International Students' house. Reports state that copper and brass wares as well as children's toys and basketry were produced and sold locally, at two major department stores, probably Eaton's and Simpson's. It is also recorded that a special exhibition of their works was presented at the Canadian National Exhibition in August/September of 1920.

The logo here was based on the cap badge of the vocational wards aides. The design consists of "A triangle (for mind, body and spirit), enclosing a clenched fist holding a hammer (signifying the nobility of work), with the rising sun behind (the whole emblematic of the nobility of work lighting up minds, body and spirit)."

The tray is very large, almost 24 inches in length and over three and a half pounds of copper! The edges are rolled over and the handles are attached with great copper rivets. The bowl measures over 13 inches across and is also over three pounds in weight while the candle sconce is a mere eight ounces. All of these pieces are created with heavy gauge copper with beautifully applied patinas. The level of craftsmanship is very high and quite similar to items made by much better known American craft workshops, such as Roycroft, which produced hand hammered copper in a small studios from around 1906 to the 1930's.

In today's market the demand for quality hand-made pieces of copper from this time period and style is still quite strong. This group should sell locally for several hundred dollars to an appreciative collector.

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 Robert@reidsantiques.com.



LIFETIME STOUFFVILLE RESIDENT SETS FOR HER NEXT LONG DISTANCE ADVENTURE

By Kinjal Dagli Shah

Holly Norris-Jezovit knows all about new beginnings.

The 32 year old, who grew up in Stouffville, is about to embark on her second long term sabbatical away from her home town in the past few years as she and her two and a half year old daughter Olivia get set to move to British Columbia to join Holly's husband Aaron. This comes on the heels of a work assignment that saw the couple recently return from a teaching stint in Canada's far north. Another 'beginning' is also in the works as Holly is about to give birth to a second child.

But despite her wanderings of late, Holly can never get enough of Stouffville. She was raised in town, attended elementary and high school here, played baseball with now-mayor Justin Altmann, worked at the Stouffville Fish & Chips and received her marriage proposal in front of the clock tower on Main Street.



Holly Norris-Jezovit and her daughter Olivia will soon be reunited with husband Aaron in British Columbia.

"How Stouffville can you get!" said Holly, laughing. "My mother still lives in the same house I grew up in and we're the only people that have ever lived in that house," she added. "I feel like I'm revisiting my childhood through Olivia. We attended Ribfest and Food Truck Frenzy and I love that we have these awesome events now; those things didn't happen when I was growing up here."

Every part of Stouffville holds special memories for Holly. "A big thing when I was a kid was the Sales Barn, which most people called the Flea Market back then. It would be packed every weekend and we went all the time." The Markham Fair was another annual attraction for Holly, who was a Markham Fair Ambassador when she was younger.

"I also remember dances being held at the Stouffville Arena and Latham Hall when I was in Grade 7 and 8. Those youth dances were everything to us," recalled Holly.

However, Holly and Aaron left the comforts of Stouffville behind when they spent the last few years teaching at a school in a small hamlet of 400 people in the Northwest Territories. "We lived among the aboriginal community in a hamlet called Fort Resolution. It was very different from what we are used to - we had to drive 155 kilometres to get

groceries and it was minus-40 degrees all winter. But it was such a great experience and it was even more close-knit than Stouffville was for me when I was growing up. We know a lot of people in Stouffville but we knew every single person in Fort Resolution," said Holly, who said she is looking forward to another adventure in British Columbia.

But as Holly points out, no matter where she travels, "Stouffville will always be home."

Write to kinjal at kinjal.dagli@gmail.com

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