

Deck the Halls
continued
From Page C24

The poinsettia was named after the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett, who is credited with introducing it to the U.S. in 1825.

Kennedy Greenhouses, just south of town on Kennedy Road, is full of colourful annuals, perennials and hanging baskets in the summer months. The family-operated business is now in Christmas mode, offering evergreen boughs, swags, wreaths and garlands as well as specialty items like magnolia leaves and large sugar cones. They also specialize in making large urn arrangements, incorporating a range of materials which may include evergreen branches, birch or red osier dogwood stems and colourful berries.

Co-owner Carolo Trigianni said that while natural materials are very much in demand, there is also a strong interest in 'bling' and glitter in large arrangements placed on commercial locations or at grand homes, which often



have long driveways and want the decorations to stand out at a distance. For those arrangements, big, colourful Christmas decorations and globes may be added, as well as gold and silver accessories and wide, metallic-coloured ribbons.

"Some people go with the 'bling' outside, then favour a more natural look inside the house, or vice versa," said Carlo. "It's important to keep the urns watered until freeze-up so the plant material does not dry out. Spraying with an anti-desiccant is also a good idea. Then the urn material will last till spring."

Don't overlook the floral section of the local Metro store for additions to your Christmas decor. You can pick up roses in all colours, carnations, pepperberries in season, and mixed bouquets to add to natural evergreen wreaths and garlands.

Go for a woodland walk, or just step out into your garden to find cones, pods, berries, rose hips and dried floral material such as hydrangea, picked green before frost, or toasty brown after frost. Merry Christmas!



Kevin McWhinnie photos

Treasures and Heirlooms

By Rob Reid

A sunny, warm and bright December to everyone.

Here we have an extremely large carving platter with a lovely multi-coloured transfer pattern.

Transfer ware china was made primarily in England starting in 1756. It is a process where a pattern is first drafted and etched onto a copper, or other metal, plate. The plate is then covered with ink and the pattern is transferred onto a special tissue. The tissue is then put on the bisque (china that has been fired in a kiln once but not glazed); glazed and fired again. This process creates a crisp pattern on the china. On many pieces one can see where the transfer design ends or where it does not quite match, much like wallpaper.

This technique was developed in response to a demand for decorated china by the general population that could not afford the expensive individually hand-decorated pottery of the richer upper class. The process was developed during the industrial revolution allowing for the production of dinnerware at a fraction of the time, labour and cost previously required.

Later, the technology allowed for more than one colour. Another supplementary technique involved using a basic transfer outline with some hand painted details, like flower petals and leaves, added within. This technique was called "clobbering".

Many colours were used in transfer ware including shades of blue, red, purple, green and yellow. Brown was the least expensive and therefore the most common, while yellow was much rarer. Blue was, and still is, the most sought-after and tends to be the most valued.

This huge platter is 18 inches wide and 22 inches long and was made by Wedgwood in 1884 in England. It has a series of ribbed troughs leading to a well or reservoir used to collect the juices and oils from a roast as it rests after cooking and while it is carved. The decorations are bright and colourful with reddish-brown fruit or nuts on brown laurel swags with yellow trumpet flowers and strong blue ribbons that tie it all

together. This huge platter can easily accommodate a twenty pound turkey and would be a fine centrepiece at any Christmas dinner.

In this particular case size does matter. Finding a 130-year-old platter this large with no damage typically commands a premium from collectors. While the market is not as strong as it was a decade ago, a platter as large as this one with no damage should still sell for \$250 or more.

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.



UNDERCOATING SEASON IS HERE

Whistle 410 AUTO is the proud sponsor of AUTO TALK
Radio 102.7
TUESDAY NIGHTS - 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.



Rick Callaghan

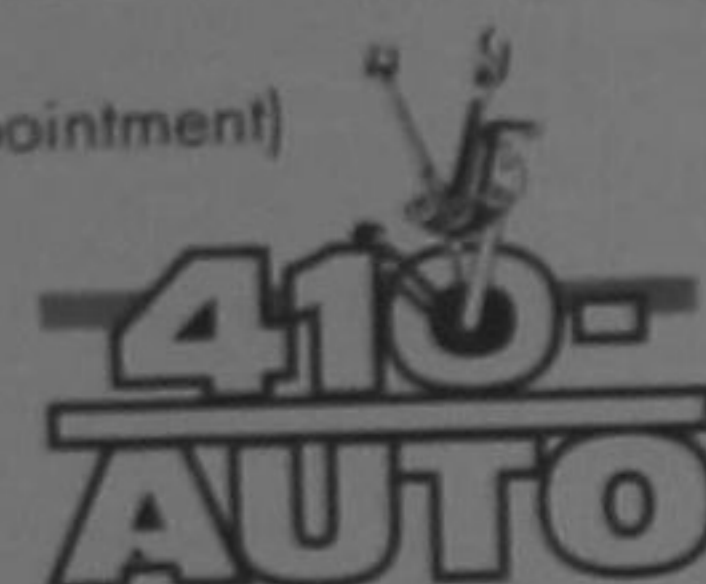
- Free courtesy car (by appointment)
- Yes, we do Domestic
- On Line Booking is Available

138 Sandiford Dr.,
Unit 5, Stouffville

905-642-2886 or 1-877-410-2886(AUTO)

www.410auto.ca

Specializing in
Volkswagen.
Audi
Hybrid, Electric & Diesel
Porsche
European & Asian



Treasures and Heirlooms

By Rob Reid

A sunny, warm and bright December to everyone.

Here we have an extremely large carving platter with a lovely multi-coloured transfer pattern.

Transfer ware china was made primarily in England starting in 1756. It is a process where a pattern is first drafted and etched onto a copper, or other metal, plate. The plate is then covered with ink and the pattern is transferred onto a special tissue. The tissue is then put on the bisque (china that has been fired in a kiln once but not glazed); glazed and fired again. This process creates a crisp pattern on the china. On many pieces one can see where the transfer design ends or where it does not quite match, much like wallpaper.

This technique was developed in response to a demand for decorated china by the general population that could not afford the expensive individually hand-decorated pottery of the richer upper class. The process was developed during the industrial revolution allowing for the production of dinnerware at a fraction of the time, labour and cost previously required.

Later, the technology allowed for more than one colour. Another supplementary technique involved using a basic transfer outline with some hand painted details, like flower petals and leaves, added within. This technique was called "clobbering".

Many colours were used in transfer ware including shades of blue, red, purple, green and yellow. Brown was the least expensive and therefore the most common, while yellow was much rarer. Blue was, and still is, the most sought-after and tends to be the most valued.

This huge platter is 18 inches wide and 22 inches long and was made by Wedgwood in 1884 in England. It has a series of ribbed troughs leading to a well or reservoir used to collect the juices and oils from a roast as it rests after cooking and while it is carved. The decorations are bright and colourful with reddish-brown fruit or nuts on brown laurel swags with yellow trumpet flowers and strong blue ribbons that tie it all

together. This huge platter can easily accommodate a twenty pound turkey and would be a fine centrepiece at any Christmas dinner.

In this particular case size does matter. Finding a 130-year-old platter this large with no damage typically commands a premium from collectors. While the market is not as strong as it was a decade ago, a platter as large as this one with no damage should still sell for \$250 or more.

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.



This Holiday, Make Room For A Side Of FITNESS!

Gift Certificates Available

SNAP

FITNESS 24-7

No matter your fitness level, we'll help you look and feel better, guaranteed! It's as simple as getting you started with the right workout and customized nutrition plan. Plus, our free instruction will help you achieve your fitness goals fast.

- Online nutrition and meal planning
- Personal Trainers for faster results
- Month-to-month memberships

Stouffville
5892 Main Street Unit #208
(905) 642-6300
snapfitness.com/stouffville
Located in the Giant Tiger Plaza

Call, click or visit today—we're minutes away! www.snapfitness.com

ONE DAY ONLY!
Thursday December 4th!
Anniversary Event
Join for only \$8.00

Includes access card & enrollment dues

plus
Free Personal Training Session
Learn your FITNESS SCORE & get on a workout plan (\$100 value)

Offer valid on a 12 month membership only. Offer expires at the end of the day of Thursday Dec. 4, 2014. Limit one per household. No cash value. Some restrictions may apply. Valid only for local residents on first visit at participating clubs.

PEPPERTREE KLASSICS

Markham's Favourite Fashions,
Footwear and Accessories Boutique

WINTER is here and we have lots of FABULOUS Winter items!

GREAT GIFT GIVING IDEAS FOR...



Men's Nights for
Christmas Shopping
Dec. 11th & 18th 4 p.m.-8 p.m.
Our elves will wrap your purchases FREE!

OPEN BOXING DAY
Dec. 26th 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
AMAZING SAVINGS! One Day ONLY!

BRING THIS
COUPON
TO RECEIVE
35% OFF

Regular Prices
FREE SCARF with minimum
purchase of \$35. Scarf valued at
\$25 or less.

137 MAIN STREET NORTH, MARKHAM / 905.294.3882 / WWW.PEPPERTREE.CA / FASHIONS@PEPPERTREE.CA / OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEKS AND HOLIDAYS