

ATTIC TREASURES... by Rob Reid

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Eric R. Button, B.A., L.L.B.

Gordon C. Ness, Q.C.

and Associate

Kenneth C. Goodbrand B. Comm. L.L.B.

banlaw@rogers.com

905-986-0941
Port Perry

905-640-3530
6361 Main St., Stouffville

A sunny and hopefully warm February to everyone. I welcome inquiries about any objects that you may have and look forward to seeing and perhaps writing about them. Please forward a photo and a description to me through *Stouffville this Month*, drop it off at Reid's Antiques, 6397 Main St. Stouffville during regular business hours or via e-mail at robert.reid5@sympatico.ca

Here is a group of jars that are generally referred to as canning or fruit jars. Many people are still using these older jars while others only recognize them as something that grandmother used for her jams and

pickles. Glass fruit jars have been used in North America since the 1830's and the screw top style lid was patented in the United States on Nov. 30, 1858.

There are thousands of

while this jar would sell for about \$12 to \$15.

Colour has a large part to play when determining value. Yellow, golden amber and blue jars are just some of the variations.



different types of jars with different closures, sizes, colours and embossments. Crown, Gem, Corona, Ball and True Fruit are just a few that might ring a bell for Canadians. The vast majority of them have little value above that of their intended purpose. However, there are some that are avidly sought after and have a significant value to the collector.

The fruit jar in the centre is a Crown jar made in 1907 and has a nice light green colour that separates it from a common aqua coloured jar. This makes it slightly more desirable.

A basic Crown jar of this age is only worth \$1 or \$2

Another big factor is size. The small pint or half pint jars and the gallon and larger sizes usually command a premium price.

The jars on the left and right are also Crown jars but are a little bit more unusual and distinctly Canadian. Both of these fruit jars were made for the T. Eaton Company and bear the letter E in a triangle to show that. The one on the right has number 15 above the triangle, denoting a production date of 1915 while the left hand jar has an 18 above the triangle for 1918.

Many fruit jars have a date impressed on the bottom and while the number 1858 is on many, this

only refers to the patent date, not the date it was made. While the jar on the right is older the jar on the left is more valuable.

Both jars have the Eaton's Diamond and both have the words "Toronto and Winnipeg" embossed below, but the 1918 jar is unusual because both the letters "N" in Winnipeg are backwards! This makes it a \$45 to \$55 jar as opposed to the \$10 to \$15 that the 1915 one is worth.

As the many hundreds of variations in fruit jars can make a big difference to their value, there are many publications devoted to the subject. One of the overwhelming favourites is a book called *The Red Book Of Fruit Jars* that is very comprehensive in coverage.

Today many people are no longer canning and preserving fruit and vegetables and many of these jars are being discarded. Before you toss grandma's old jars in the trash, or better yet the recycling bin, have a look through them for anything unusual like funny names, colours or even embossed animals. You may discover a little treasure of your own.

Rob Reid is the owner of Reid's Antiques and Consignment on Stouffville's Main St.

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Markhaven administrator Anna Jennings (left) and Foundation president Mary-Ruth Flood accept a cheque for \$8,000 from John McCracken of Stouffville Legion Branch 459. Branch members raised the money to purchase beds for the facility. Also on hand for the presentation were the Legion's Harold Tillyer, and Joan Marshman and Mary Hamerston of the Ladies Auxiliary.

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