

EDITORIAL PAGE.

Dear Readers,

After a lengthy absence from the limelight, the topic of our Official Plan is front and centre again. In this issue you can read about planning and the subject of plans in general and more specifically about our own Official Plan as it is presently proposed.

My recollection of the last public meeting at which the Plan was discussed leads me to believe that there will be a lively gathering at the upcoming presentation.

If the Plan is accepted, it will determine the course of our area's development for years to come. Whether you're a landowner or not, you certainly have something at stake in this matter.

The Plan's presentation on May 11 is your chance to talk with people "in the know" and with the people who will be influential in determining the fate of the Plan. Don't pass up this opportunity and find yourself regretting it later.

Our thanks go out this month to the Ladies of the Portland A.C.W. for their interest in the Lantern and for their generous donation.

Peri McQuay, Weaver on Foley Mountain

Lantern Profile



In these days of craft schools and degrees for everything, weaver Peri McQuay stands apart. Peri began weaving when she was eight years old. Her father came home one night with a consignment of looms. He'd decided that the family would learn to weave - and learn they did!

Peri's interest in weaving continued throughout her adolescence. However, it was not until she had completed a degree in philosophy at the University of Toronto that she realized that weaving was her vocation.

In spite of the fact that Peri is largely self-taught, she is well versed in weaving theory. She has taught both beginner and intermediate level courses for St. Lawrence College in the area.

Peri's most enjoyable teaching experience was at St. Edwards School in Westport last year. She spent a week at the school under the Artists in the Schools program sponsored by the Ontario Arts Council. The children learned all aspects of weaving, from carding and spinning the wool, to weaving the final product. Peri loved the children's enthusiasm; they were "good, respectful and very interested."

Peri produces items such as placemats, vests, ponchos and coats, as well as decorative saddle blankets and wall hangings. She has found it difficult to earn a good income from the weaving however. Like many craftspeople, Peri finds herself caught between the demand to produce functional, saleable items and the desire to explore her artistic bent. At this point, she says, "I'm weaving to please myself."

Peri's interest in the primitive, particularly North American Indian design, reveals itself in many pieces. Her "Chilkat Blanket", for example, is inspired by Indian designs of the British Columbia coast. Peri feels that primitive art can tell us something about ourselves, about our roots.

Ms. McQuay's approach to weaving applies itself to many other areas. She is deeply interested in many things, including music, nature and woodworking. Her pursuit of these interests provides a rich environment for her two young children, Morgan and Jeremy.

Peri's love of nature has had full play at the McQuay's home in the Foley Mountain Conservation Area. As caretaker of the park, Barry McQuay has taken on the additional duty of running courses for school children. Busloads of youngsters come from as far as Kingston and Ottawa to take Barry's nature study courses. Although the courses are primarily scientific, the children also learn sensitivity to beauty and appreciation of wildlife.

The McQuays spend a great deal of time outside. With the wildlife to observe, and her many interests, Peri has not minded the isolation of her three and a half years at the Conservation Area. She jokes, "I guess if I had my way I'd be a hermit!"



Peri McQuay and son Jeremy at home on Foley Mountain.

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North Leeds LANTERN



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