

Local guild practices traditional rug hooking

BY HAZEL HERRIOT

Traditional rug hooking is still alive and well!

It's a means of creating beautiful floor mats, wall hangings, table runners, foot-stool covers or coasters.

It's done by cutting woven cloth into strips and then hooking them through a backing such as burlap, loosely woven linen, cotton or verel cloth.

The strips can be very narrow and used for detailed and intricate patterns, or cut into other widths.

The wider widths are used for so-called primitive patterns.

The strips are held beneath the backing and by means of a special hook (much like a crochet hook but with a more comfortable handle), loops of fabric are brought to the surface.

Rug hooking is environmentally friendly, for it re-uses and recycles woollen material from skirts, dresses, coats, jackets and other articles considered to be too old to wear any longer.

Dr. Grenfell in Newfoundland had a cottage industry going to help the women in poor coastal towns.

He solicited used silk stockings from well-off parishioners in New York, which he then gave to Newfoundland women to hook into beautiful articles.

Now nylon stockings are used by all rug hookers, for they can be used to hook washable articles like bath mats and coffee mug mats.

I remember my grandmother hooking utilitarian mats merely to keep the mud from arriving on the kitchen floor, and also to use in the winter to stop the drafts by putting them up against the bottoms of the doors.

She used a hook made from the tine of a hay rake. Grandpa's old winter underwear was dyed, cut up with scissors and hooked. She used other woollens too.

Modern day rug hooking has become more of a refined art form, but it still has its practical uses.

The Deep River Rug Hooking Guild is a branch of the Ontario Rug Hooking Guild and as such there are workshops, get-togethers and annual meetings to attend throughout the province.

The Deep River Guild, a very active group, meets every second Tuesday in members' homes to hook, give mutual support, educate and encourage.

All former rug hookers are invited to dig out those unfinished articles and come to the meetings. Be inspired and helped to get the job done.

Also, anyone interested in seeing what rug hooking is all about is welcome. Rug hooking is a good way to cure the winter blahs.

The next meeting of the Deep River Rug Hooking Guild will be held January 14 at 1:30 pm at 31 Highland Crescent. All are welcome.

It would be helpful if you phoned ahead so we know how many cups of tea to make. For more information, call 584-3012.



Hazel Herriot is shown here last summer, demonstrating traditional rug-hooking techniques at the Schoolhouse Museum at Meilleur's Bay. File photo

MATCH UP

To put a free notice in Match-Up, phone the NRT office at 584-4161, or email <NRT@magma.ca>.

STAMPS: Are there any stamp collectors out there? Three packages of used stamps are available to give away. They may be claimed at the NRT office.

TOQUE: A small grey "Firefly" toque was found at Tack Point recently. It can be claimed by its owner at the NRT office.

BATTER UP: A handful of Walter Johnson baseball cards are being given away. The package includes a fact sheet stating that Johnson pitched his first major league game on August 2, 1907 for the Washington Senators. They're free to the first person who calls 584-2659 after 5 pm.

PHONE HOME: A Blackberry cell phone went missing in the snow over the weekend in Deep River, possibly in the Algonquin Street area. Please call 584-4593 if you've found it.

FLASHLIGHT: A flashlight was lost in the parking area at end of Bass Lake Rd, December 28. If found, please call 584-9882.

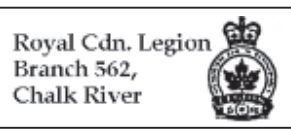
WASHER-DRYER: A local family has an older washer and dryer to give away. It is still in good working condition. Needs to be picked up or can be delivered locally. Call or text 613-281-9911.

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and we'd like to wish one and all a Happy New Year filled with peace, prosperity and good health.

A very enjoyable time and a great feast were had by all who attended our New Year's Eve Progressive Euchre and Pot Luck.

The winners in the card-playing were as follows: Jim Morel, Darryl McCambridge and Ed Nykorak finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd with Jim Morel earning the title of Most Loners; as for the ladies, Hazel Sullivan and Eunice Moore claimed 1st and 2nd spots while Marlyn Chaput and Barb Clouthier tied for 3rd place, with Jenny McMahon taking Most Loners.

We'd like to congratulate Steve Poirier who finished in 2nd place in Singles at Zone Darts last Saturday in Pembroke and also George Lamure and Anthony Stewart who finished in 3rd place in Doubles.



We wish them much success as they move on to District Darts. Way to go, guys!

This is just a "heads-up" to anyone who wishes to order Legion merchandise.

You can now do this as individuals by going to the following website: www.shop.legion.ca.

Here's a reminder to any member who has not yet paid their 2014 membership dues.

They now cost \$55 and must be paid by January 31 in order to maintain your "member in good standing" status.

There will be a General Meeting on Wednesday, January 15, starting at 7:30 pm, followed by a Wine & Cheese.

New members will be inducted at this meeting. If, somehow, you have never been officially inducted, and you would be able to attend this meeting to be sworn in, please call Irene Milton at 589-9739.



Mrs. Claus and North Renfrew Family Services would like to thank the following for making the 5th Old Fashioned Christmas Dinner such a success:

Real Hope Christian Assembly Church for donating their hall and kitchen facilities. Our sponsors: Deep River Canadian Tire, Fleury's valumart and Giant Tiger. The Olive Tree for selling our tickets. All the wonderful volunteers who helped with the preparation, set up and clean up.