Arts co-op welcomes new member

BY LINDA SITTLER-HOWE

The Valley Artisans' Co-op has a new artist, Glenn Stewart, who brings a different product to the co-op - hand turned acrylic items.

Stewart began his acrylic and wood lathe turnings as a hobby back in 2007 when he bought a lathe.

But he says, "I've always been building something and working with wood." Probably because he was a mechanic by trade.

Now he spends about to four to five hours in his shop on his lathe making acrylic and wood every day items — hardly a hobby, but more like a vocation or small business.

Many years ago, while he was doing scroll saw work he saw in a magazine that someone had made a pen. And then when he saw the colours in an acrylic block, he decided to combine his love of scroll saw work with the beauty of the acrylic.

Thus began his acrylic work of making pens, razors, with stands, seam rippers, key chains and aroma therapy necklaces.

When Stewart bought his father's house in Stonecliffe and moved with his wife Bonnie from Sioux Lookout to Stonecliffe, he had more time to make things — more items than he could give away.

So, he set up his small company called Stonecliffe Skunkworks.

"I make a lot of experimental stuff," he says.

One of his experimental pieces is a vending trailer he built for selling snow cones — the one that was used in the park in Deep River this past summer.

His first thoughts in the morning are, "what can I build today?"

There are so many ways to do things, he says, he needs to spend time thinking about what he wants to

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