

Carol Campbell (Family Member under Bruce Winterbon)

Fairy houses and a Winter wonderland anyone? That is Carol Campbell's new offering at ValleyArtisans Co-op. Carol (née Winterbon) grew up in Deep River, but now lives and works in Elmira and has been making things "as far back as I can remember". Her miniature fairy houses, dolls, and furniture are inspired by a fascination for tiny things, and fairy stories.

"The fairy houses are made up as I go along. I find recipes and instructions useful for information on techniques and procedures but, although at one time in my working life I wrote instruction manuals and procedural documents, I now have the luxury of rarely following them." Rather than making a list of materials before starting a project, she prefers to scavenge; the resulting products are a testament to her creativity.

"I used to do a lot of large but detailed craft projects - lace knitting, crocheting, pen and ink drawing, embroidery, quilting, painting, beadwork, etc. I loved the design work and the problem solving as much as the project work itself". Unfortunately, after years of intensive handwork, tendonitis in wrists, hands and elbows has limited Carol's dexterity and restricted her to a variety of tiny projects using a variety of techniques (and therefore a variety of motions) to build fairy houses.

"The words most likely to strike fear in my husband's heart are 'I just had an idea.' My family is quite relieved that I have a 'safe' creative outlet once again. When my mind is busy on a fairy house plan, the rest of their world is protected from my experimentation."

As for the Deep River connection? "We were making flower fairy dolls with Lynn Dunn's granddaughters and they started talking about the houses. She was interested in buying fairy houses for the girls so I sent her pictures of some finished ones. Lynn made her choice and then suggested that the Co-op might be interested in carrying others."

Presently, ValleyArtisans Co-op is the only place fairy houses are sold, but things are in the works to change that soon. The houses will be on display at the Elmira branch of the Region of Waterloo Public Library for the month of February 2010. The dolls are also "participating" in a pre-Christmas fund-raiser for a medical project in Haiti."

So for Deep River's world exclusive, visit ValleyArtisans's Co-op with your favourite "little person" and be sure to also request a free "dragon's tooth".



Carol Campbell performs the finishing touches on one of her fairy houses, furniture and dolls.