

New Transplants Take Root

Among the artisans showcasing their work at By the Clyde Furniture & Artisans' Gallery in Lanark is Kapristo Mountain Woodcraft. Featuring the design talent of Dean Spence and the organizational talents of Cathie Green, this partnership has recently moved from Golden, BC to the Lanark Highlands.

"We needed to be closer to our families as our parents grow older," explains Green, adding, "and we were drawn to the land in Lanark." The roll of the hills and the presence of other artisans gave them the feeling that their work would be appreciated here. And indeed, they have found a welcoming artistic community, and take pains to mention Dawn King, another rustic furniture maker, who made a point of welcoming them.

Spence, a former log builder, explains that he wanted to scale down from "the big stuff", and found the Adirondack tradition of rustic furniture compelling. A very sophisticated approach to rustic furniture, the tradition dates to the "camps" of humble millionaires like the Rockefellerers at the turn of the last century. Larger pieces often mask a cabinet-grade shell; these

are pieces that are designed to be lived with, and to last.

Spence works largely with birch, which he appreciates for its suppleness, its durability, the lovely dark bark it wears when it's young, and of course the brilliant white bark of the mature tree, which figures largely in the sides of his larger cabinets, as well as in patterned tops (under glass, which makes them both functional and beautiful). He also works with Eastern White Cedar, especially in his rustic

deer, which range in size from large lawn ornaments to tiny palm-sized tree decorations.

Nothing is wasted, notes Green, explaining that the smaller pieces are generally made with offcuts from larger works. The range of sizes also ensures that something is available in every price range; fans often start with something small before working their way up to a larger piece, or even a custom order.

Spence takes pains to explain the sustainable nature of their approach. Wood is harvested by coppicing (a method where small saplings are trimmed to encourage further growth – new growth can again be harvested in a few years) and then aged; finishes are based on linseed oil, a non-toxic product that gets better-looking with age.

The couple is also looking forward to offering workshops in the new year (as a side note, and further evidence of Gayle Bertrand's generosity, she immediately stepped in to offer space at By the Clyde, and help in promoting it), so that more hands-on people can build their own armchair or arbour. Keep an eye on these folks for new and interesting growth!

— Sandy Irvin



Dean Spence and Cathie Green recently relocated their Kapristo Mountain Woodcraft business from Golden, BC to Lanark Highlands



The Music of Christmas

The **Town Singers of Carleton Place** cordially invite you to their seasonal concert, entitled *The Music of Christmas*. The show will take place on Tuesday, December 9 (with a snow date of December 16) at 7PM at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Bridge Street in Carleton Place. The Town Singers are a community choir under the direction of Kristine MacLaren. They will perform many holiday favourites, and the concert will also feature performances by Peter Brown, River's Edge, and other special guests. Tickets are \$8 each, and are available at the door, or from choir members.

The before picture... We've got the beasts for your holiday feasts!

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- Strumstick, Mississippi Mills Musicworks..... \$199.95
- 4 Handwoven Hemp Placemats & Runner, Textile Museum \$72
- Funky Ladies' Clothing, Nordic Star \$20-\$150
- Bergamot & Copaiba Balsam Lotion Bar, Sachel Soaps \$7
- Hand-Bound Books by Tanya Deacove, Stillwater Books \$25
- Kaffe Fassett Quilt Kits, Textile Traditions \$36.99 & up
- Exotic Cut Flower Bouquet, The Blossom Shop \$40 & up
- Buddha Boards, The Miller's Tale..... \$9.99
- "Archetypes and You" Workshop, White Light Retreat..... \$125
- Tarot Card Reading, Willow & Thorn \$45

Gifts for Gardeners

- Cedar Garden Deer (24" & 36"), By the Clyde..... \$40 & \$55
- Pig Watering Cans, Design by Destination \$49
- Custon Garden Gates, Harwig Heritage Carpentry..... \$500 & up
- Wooden Birdhouses & Windchimes, Maclean Young \$27 & up
- Root Cellaring, Nature Lover's Bookshop..... \$14.95
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