

Hooking for pleasure and for fun



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

Rug hooking is both an art and a craft where rugs are made by pulling loops of yarn or fabric through a stiff woven base such as burlap, linen, or rug warp. The loops are pulled through the backing material by using a crochet-type hook mounted in a handle (usually wood) for leverage.

A distinguished American architect and scholar in the 1920s and 30s, William Winthrop Kent, became interested in the hooked rugs of the humble housewives living in the New England states and neighbouring provinces of the Canadian Maritimes, recognizing that he was looking at an art form with much distinction and potential.

In the Brome Village Hall, a small group of 12 women have been meeting, once a month (usually the third Satur-

day) to share in their passion for this craft that has long been enjoyed by women in the area for generations. These women were inspired by a show held every two years at the Shelburne Museum round barn and last year they held their own rug show.

"After car pooling down to Shelburne as a group where we literally drooled over their work," said Lise Page, a member of the Brome Village 'hookers,' "we were determined to put our own work on display for the local people to view and enjoy. The show included a demonstration where people could see the group in action as they hooked up a storm."

The group even held a fundraiser with proceeds going to the upkeep of the Brome Village Hall and they raised \$500; a collaborative effort where each woman hooked a different square and then Lise put them together. The group is presently hooking another for their fall show and this one will have a Christmas theme.

Potton has at least three rug hookers in its midst who have joined the group, Johanne Champigny, Ann Carter and Lise Page. Ann is in her 80s and is a wealth of information on this art/craft. Johanne is in her second year and Lise has been "hooking" for close to nine years now.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LISE PAGE

"It's an amazing craft and it dates way back to the time of our great-grandmothers," said Lise. "They used to hook to keep their feet warm! Now, we hook for fun."

The group has one more hook-in on May 24 at 10 a.m. in the Brome Hall, after that they will break for the summer when it is just too hot to hook. The

group will gather again in the fall in preparation for their fall show.

This group allows a glimpse into an art that brings communities together. Much like quilting groups, this is a social gathering where people gather to chat, create, and join in the fun! Warning, for those looking for hobby...they tell me those who try it usually get hooked!



Mother's getting spoiled this year

Mothers, prepare to be spoiled this year, as Robin Badger and Robert Chartier are opening their pottery studio for a special three-day event over the weekend. The couple is offering a 10 per cent discount on all the pottery in the store, to help spoil Mom a little bit more! Everything from Robert's magnificent birdbaths, to all of Robin's blue pottery will be on sale. A raised fruit bowl will be offered as a silent auction fundraiser for the women's shelter Horizon Pour Elles, who help mothers living through difficult domestic situations. Down To Earth Pottery will be open May 9, 10, and 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, located at 67 Bailey Road in West Bolton. For more info please call 450-242-2836 or visit the web site www.robin-badger.com.



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