

17th potters guild show



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Lee-Ann Choquette loves throwing clay. As a member of the Kawartha Potters Guild, she is in her element. This year she is the co-ordinator of the 17th-annual Kawartha Potters Guild show and sale.

The event takes place Nov. 30 from 3 to 9 p.m.; Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Dec. 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Peterborough Lions community centre, 347 Burnham St.

There will be 21 members exhibiting and selling their creations during the three-day event. New this year, the event includes a newbie table with three potters who have never done a show before.

The show features many types of pottery, everything from functional pieces like dinnerware, cups and platters to jewelry and wall hangings to artistic and decorative items. "We have a fantastic variety of pieces," said Choquette.

Plans include pottery demonstrations both days, so visitors can see artists at work. They have also added entertainment on Friday night. Hurly-Burly, a medieval group, performs Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.

The guild has also added a people's choice award to the event. Guests receive a ticket at the door, which they use to vote for the artist they like the most. "It's a fantastic opportunity for everyone to participate," she said.

Votes are tallied and the people's choice is announced. The winning artist receives a certificate of recognition of their achievement.

Choquette is relatively new to pottery and has been doing it part-time since 2005. A co-worker took some classes and that's when she really got interested. "I have always been intrigued by pottery," she said.

She signed up for classes herself and she was hooked. Soon afterward she bought a kiln to fire her greenware at home.

The pieces she creates are functional. "I have a passion for cooking. The pieces I create can be used every day," she explained.

She also immersed herself in



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different firing techniques like raku, horsehair or pit firing. How you fire the piece can change the same color dramatically. "There is so much you can do with clay," she said.

This is Choquette's first year co-ordinating the show and sale. "When I was asked to do it I realized it was a great opportunity to learn the ropes and work with other potters to make that happen," she said.

The event takes months to prepare for. From September onwards it several hours a day.

In the weeks leading up to the show, she is involved in every aspect of event planning such as gathering supplies, ordering signage, arranging the potters work schedule, room set-up and more.

"Everybody helps and it turns out to be a wonderful showcase," she said.

The Kawartha Potters Guild recently established a gallery and studio on Talwood Dr. It's open to the public and provides exhibition space for member artists. Pottery is also sold there.

The new space means they can offer courses and classes in pottery as well. "We are really excited to be able to offer classes now," she said.

Upcoming classes include a children's class making clay ornaments slated for Dec. 8 and Dec. 15.

For those who may not have a workspace at home, KPG offers studio space for rent.

For information about membership or classes, call the gallery at 705-742-4979, or send an e-mail to kawarthapotters-guild@gmail.com. Their website address is kawarthapotters-guild.com

Calendar

Diabetes Health Fair: Canadian Diabetes Association hosts a motivational health fair planned for Nov. 29 starting at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Lions Community Centre, 347 Burnham St. The free community event includes keynote speaker Nic Cunningham; check out the interactive educational displays. For more, contact the CDA at 705-742-2733.

Theatre: Rumpelstiltskin by Chuck Vollmar is the next play to take to the Peterborough Theatre Guild stage, Nov. 27 to Dec. 2 at Peterborough Theatre Guild, 364 Rogers St. It's a take on the classic tale Rumpelstiltskin, complete with singing and audience interaction. Tickets are \$18 per adult; \$16 per senior and \$10 per student. For info or tickets, call the PTG box office, 705-745-4211 or visit www.theatreguild.org.

Healthy Families: Ashburnham-based Kinark Child and Family Services present the next workshop in the Healthy Families series. Neurodevelopmental Disorders including Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) is a free workshop set for Nov. 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Peterborough Public Library Auditorium. Guest speaker is Donna Debolt, FASD Specialist. She will discuss the issues relating neurodevelopmental disorders, as well as provide behavioural strategies to deal with these disorders. Contact Kinark at 705-742-3803 or 1-800-386-6561.