



Message from
Richard Pikul, President



Quite a winter this year, a near record amount of snow for our part of the world! I almost ran out of space to put the white stuff from my driveway! It's now the end of March and I'm still walking my pooch over snow covered paths in the park.

Right in between two large snowstorms, the Canadian Home Workshop show! The WGO again was given a double booth to demonstrate our group's skills and to have a chance to talk to the show attendees about woodturning in general.

This year, there were more than the normal number of attendees asking about how to join a woodturning group. Most wanted to join a group that was close by to where they lived. There is no group in the west end of the city – where most of the inquiring turners live. These turners, interested in joining a group must, at present, drive almost an hour either East or West to attend meetings at their nearest guild.

With the continuing increase in turning interest, and our own growing guild, we have decided to add more to our program. Note the word 'add' – regular monthly meetings and our skills development night meetings will continue on the same schedule – at the same location.

Humber College (campus is located at Finch Ave. / Hwy 27) has offered our guild the use their woodworking shop and one classroom one Monday evening and one Sunday each month. Other days of the week are not available due to woodworking class schedules. This facility is more than we could ask for as a meeting site. While providing a site for informal and training meetings, we can also provide a more 'local' outlet for our present and future members who live in the West end of the city. As a bonus, the college has a large parking lot (free on Sundays and evenings). Note that the college also has an excellent evening woodworking program! If you take and pass one of their

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**Share your talent and learn from others at
the same time.**

Do you have ideas for us ?

**Please tell us how you can help -
e-mail the editor at:**

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Making a bowl using a waste block and jam-chuck

Joan Beauregard
West Island Woodturners (Montreal)

Recently I brought a small irregular bowl, turned from a root, for Show& Tell at a club meeting. There was a lot of interest in how it was made – particularly the use of a waste block – so here is a description.

Step 1- I started with the root, and decided how to cut it, to get the best piece to work with. The result shown here gave three usable pieces, each with a flat side.



Step 2 – Setting-up the waste block.

I mounted a piece of waste-wood about 3" long in the jaw-chuck, rounded it, and made sure the end was squared off. Keeping the waste block in the chuck, I then removed the chuck from the lathe, turned it end-up as shown in the picture, and glued my bowl-piece to it. I left this long enough to be sure the glue was solid, then re-mounted it on the lathe.

I glued my selected bowl piece onto it with carpenters' glue to be sure the piece would not come flying off unexpectedly as I worked on it. There are turners who use CA or hot-glue with good results, and I have used both on occasion, however the piece I was working with was a bit punky on the glue-face, so I wanted something more reliable.



Step 3 – rounding the bowl & turning a foot.

With the piece back on the lathe, and supported by the tail-stock, I started to shape the outside of the piece. I also started to cut the foot into it. My preferred tool is a gouge, with an Ellsworth grind.

Once this was done, I backed-off the tailstock to finish the foot.



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Views, comments and recommendations expressed by individuals contributing to this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the Woodturners Guild of Ontario.

WARNING! Woodturning is an inherently dangerous active activity. Readers should not attempt any process or procedure described in this publication without seeking proper training and detailed information on the safe use of tools and machines.

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Step 4 – reversing the piece and starting the final shape

The piece is reversed and held in the chuck by the foot that was just turned. If it had become off-true when it was reversed, now was the time to re-true it, and finalize the outside shape. Still using the tailstock for support I started removing the waste block. When I could go no further with the tailstock, I backed it off. I was now ready to remove start hollowing



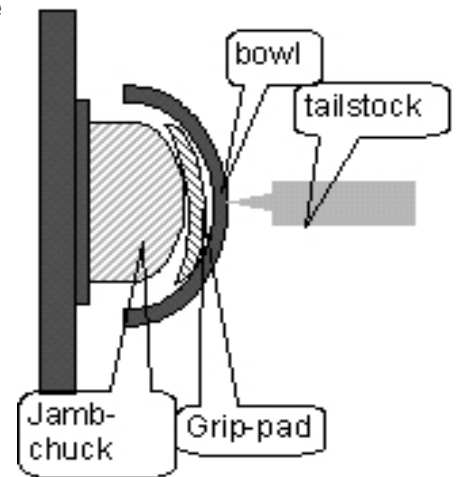
Step 5- hollowing and final shaping

I started hollowing and kept working at it slowly until I was satisfied with the wall-thickness and overall smoothness of profile. Like every novice-turner I got to the point when I was trading off between “do I take one more pass & risk blowing it, or stop here. Since the piece was quite small, and not a major loss if broken, I pushed myself to continue until the thickness was about one eighth of an inch– a record for me. To complete the inside, I sanded as much of the bowl as I could reach, as I would not get another chance.



Step 6 – removing the foot using a jamb-chuck

Once I was satisfied with the shape of the bowl, I removed it from the chuck. The next step being to reverse again and remove the foot, holding the bowl in-place with a jamb-chuck. To make a jamb-chuck, I again put a piece of waste-wood into the jaws, and turned it to roughly the shape of the inside of the bowl, but longer, to give enough room for the irregular shape of the bowl-rim to rotate without catching. The jamb-chuck doesn't have to be a perfect fit – just enough to support and hold once I remove the foot. Unfortunately I have no pictures of this step, but have made a diagram to show the set-up.



The bowl is mounted on the jamb-chuck using a gripping pad to cushion it and help hold it in place. Choices of material for the grip pad can be any rubber or rubber-like material, or any material that is soft and smooth, but a bit grabby. Another choice, if you're concerned that the piece may let go, is a few, small, well-placed pieces of self-adhesive foam tape.

I kept the tailstock in-place as long as a could, while removing the foot. At this point I sanded again, the section I had previously not been able to reach, then backed off the tailstock for the final light cuts, and final sanding. This done, the turning was complete, except to give it a coat of lacquer.



Everything You Wanted to Know About Maple Trees Part 3 of 4

Richard Pikul

Silver Maple

Acer saccharinum

Aceraceae (Maple Family)

Common Names: Silver Maple, Creek Maple, River Maple, Silverleaf Maple, Soft Maple, Water Maple, White Maple.

Distinctive Features: Silver Maple is best identified by its deeply lobed leaves with a white or silvery under surface. On larger trees, the bark peels in long strips that curl at the ends, giving it a unique shaggy appearance.

Description: Silver Maple is a fast-growing tree that requires wet soils with lots of room. It is very easy to grow from seed. Silver maple is a native, deciduous, medium-sized tree. The trunk is often separated into several upright branches near the ground. The crown is usually open and round. The root system is shallow and fibrous and can extend over a large area.



Leaves: Five deep lobes, white or silvery under surface. The slender stalks of the leaves mean that even a light breeze can produce a striking effect as the silver undersides of the leaves are exposed.

Flowers: The flowers are in small panicles, produced before the leaves in early spring, with the seeds maturing in early summer.

Fruit: The seeds are winged, in pairs, 5-10 mm diameter. The wings are about 3-5 cm long. Although the wings provide for some transport by air, the seeds are heavy and are also transported by

water.

Bark: The bark of young stems is smooth; it becomes darker and furrowed to flaky on older stems.



Habitat: Silver Maple grows in moist bottomlands along the shores of rivers, streams, islands and lakes. The range of silver maple extends from New Brunswick to west to northern Michigan, northern Wisconsin and northern Minnesota; south to south-eastern South Dakota and eastern Oklahoma; east to northern Georgia; and north through western South Carolina and western North Carolina to Maine.

Mature Height: 27-36 m

Shade Tolerance: Moderate

Soil: Sandy loam

Salt Tolerance: Moderate

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Life Expectancy: 80-130 yrs

Moisture Preference: High

ph Level: Neutral to acid

Pollution Tolerance: Moderate to high

Form: A moderate to large tree, often with numerous main branches.

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Erosion: An excellent tree for planting in wet areas and embankments along waterways.

Shade: Plant this tree in moist, large areas only, such as parks and natural areas. The Silver Maple is not widely planted as a street or shade tree. Due to its brittle nature, many twigs and branches are broken off during storms. The roots search out sources of water, creating problems for foundations, water and sewage lines

Wildlife: In old trees, the large branches are hollowed out by fungus and rot, creating dens for raccoons and squirrels. These cavities are also used by wood ducks and many other birds. The large buds of the Silver maple are one of the primary food sources for squirrels during the spring. The seeds are the largest of any native maple and are also a food source for wildlife.

Wood Products Value: Silver maple wood is moderately hard, brittle, and close-grained. It is not as heavy or hard as that of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*). Silver maple wood is used for furniture, boxes, crates, food containers, panelling, and core stock. Silver maple is cut and sold with red maple as 'soft maple' lumber. On good sites silver maple can be managed for timber. On poor sites, it can be managed for cordwood. It has potential for short-rotation intensive cropping systems for woody fuel biomass plantations. Silver maple sap can be used to make maple syrup.

Bigleaf maple

Acer macrophyllum

Aceraceae (Maple Family)

Bigleaf maple is an excellent wood species for woodturning. Machines easily to a smooth surface, which accepts dyes, stains, oils and surface treatments. Wood is readily available in British Columbia and is now being sold across Canada by suppliers to woodturners.

Common names:

Bigleaf Maple, Broadleaf Maple, Oregon Maple

Distinctive features:

Very large, thinly lobed leaves distinguish this species from other maples.

Description:

The largest and fastest growing maple in Canada, reaching heights of 36 metres, but more commonly 15 m to 20 m tall. When it grows in the forest, it develops a narrow crown that is supported by a stem free of branches for half its length. Trees growing in the open have a broad crown, supported by a few large, spreading limbs .

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Leaves:



Leaves are deeply five-lobed and are the largest of any maple in Canada, measuring 15 to 30 centimetres across. They have only a few blunt, wavy teeth; are shiny, dark green on top and paler underneath; and turn yellow in the fall. The leaf stalk sometimes oozes a milky substance when it is broken. Twigs and leaves emerge as pairs



Flowers:

Small greenish-yellow flowers, about 3 millimetres across, appear early in spring, hanging in clusters at the ends of twigs. The pollen cones are yellow.



Fruit:

The fruit consists of two winged seeds joined at the base. Seeds are hairy; 3 to 6 centimetres long, often remaining on the tree after the leaves have fallen remaining on the tree after the leaves have fallen.



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Bark:

Bark is generally greyish-brown, shallowly grooved when older. Bigleaf maple trees are often draped in moss, because the bark is rich in calcium and moisture



Habitat:

Bigleaf maple generally grows on coarse, gravelly, moist soils, such as those found near river, lake, or stream edges. It can also grow on other moist soils. Bigleaf Maple commonly occurs in mixed groups of trees with red alder, black cottonwood, Douglas fir, western red cedar, and western hemlock. Intense distribution range is restricted to the south-west corner of British Columbia at low to mid elevations. It is native to the Pacific coast, from southernmost Alaska south to California. Some stands are also found inland in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of central California, and a tiny population occurs in central Idaho.

Wildlife:

Squirrels, grosbeaks, and mice eat the seeds of Bigleaf maples; deer and elk eat the twigs.

Uses:

Coastal peoples used Bigleaf maple wood to make dishes, pipes and hooks for clothing. They used the inner bark to make baskets, rope and whisks. Raw shoots and boiled seed sprouts were eaten as well as syrup made from sap running in early spring. The large leaves were used to line containers, and between layers of food in pit cooking and in fish caches. Bigleaf Maple flowers are quite sweet and edible and can be used in salads.

Bigleaf maple is an excellent shade tree. Its wood is used in the furniture industry, but it is neither as hard nor as strong as the wood of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*).

Maple syrup has been made from the sap of Bigleaf Maple trees. Interest in commercially producing syrup from Bigleaf Maple sap has been limited.

Wood products value:

Because of its close grain and moderate hardness, Bigleaf maple is a preferred wood for piano frames. It is also used for furniture, salad bowls and interior finishing. It is excellent for decorative face veneer and makes good container material but is not suitable for flooring. Highly figured wood is not uncommon and is used for veneer and guitar bodies. Bigleaf maple marketed for fuel wood is increasing as wood stove use expands. Bigleaf maple has about 70 percent of the fuel value of Oregon white oak and 115 percent of the fuel value of red alder wood.

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We have expanded our turning tools line and now carry stock of:

<i>Keiton</i>	<i>Sorby</i>	<i>Rolly Munro</i>
<i>Henry Taylor</i>	<i>Crown</i>	<i>Oneway Chucks</i>
<i>Don Pencil</i>	<i>Tim Skilton</i>	<i>New Wave™</i>
<i>P & N (Patience & Nicholson)</i>		

For more information on these products, visit us online or drop by one of our stores.

1-800-683-8170 www.leevalley.com

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References:

- <http://BoDD.cf.ac.uk/BotDermFolder/BotDermA/ACER.html>
- <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/subsite/maritimetrees/tableofcontents>
- <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/general/misc>
- <http://ontariotrees.com/main/book.php?type=F>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sapindaceae>
- http://www.digitalnaturalhistory.com/flora_sapindaceae_index.htm#acerrubrum
- <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/documents/treebook/bigleafmaple.htm>
- http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/volume_2/acer/saccharum.htm
- <http://www.bcadventure.com/adventure/wilderness/forest/bigleaf.htm>
- http://www.rainyside.com/features/plant_gallery/nativeplants/
- <http://www.cwnp.org/photopgs/adoc/acmacrophyllum.html>
- Ronald P. Overton Tree Improvement Specialist, Hardwood Tree Improvement & Regeneration Centre West Lafayette, IN
- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Silvics of North America - USDA Plants Database

For more detailed information regarding this article, log on to the web sites noted above.

Items of interest for woodturners at this year's Canadian Home Workshop show

Richard Pikul

Many more decent quality, electronically controlled variable speed lathes are being added for woodturners to consider (NOTE: pricing shown below was lowest that I found at the show (no I didn't keep track of who quoted the prices...)).

In my opinion, Oneway Manufacturing is still the 'standard' to which other manufacturers are judged, but now, there are more choices for turners who wish to obtain a good quality lathe at a lower price. The lathes listed below are all readily available in Canada and - very important - the suppliers are committed to supporting their Canadian customers.

General: For detailed specifications and purchasing information log on to: <http://www.general.ca/pagetitre/ang/lathes.html>

model 25-300 (\$1399) 14" swing x 30" between centres, 360 degree swinging headstock, 1 hp electronically controlled variable speed motor, cast iron bed.

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Turning a Mannequin

Max Blum

This article about turning mannequins is meant as an introduction to off-axis turning. More detailed analysis can be found in technical articles such as the ones in the Fall and Winter 2007 issues of *American Woodturner*. The intention here is to keep it simple and have fun while turning unusual figurines, while avoiding head-splitting theory.

The methodology was taught to me by Pablo Nemzoff, a turner residing in Haifa, Israel. A small sample of his work may also be seen in the Winter 2007 issue of *Woodturning Design*. I have made some small changes to his procedure, and I apologize if it complicates things. It was simpler for me due to inexperience with a gouge attacking a wild piece of wood. Changes are indicated in the text in *italics* so that you may ignore them and revert to the true, purist approach.

The goal of this exercise is to turn a figure similar to that in Photo 1. The choice of wood is yours, as long as it's about 1.5-2 inches square and 10-12 inches long. Sizes are approximate, and the final outcome will depend on how closely you follow the guidelines. If you want, you can probably turn a much larger figurine, but a lot of measurements will have to be adjusted. Choice of gouge is yours. I use 1/4 and/or 3/8 inch spindle gouges, but a small bowl gouge will also work, or even a scraper or parting tool if you like to do it the hard way.



Photo 1



Photo 2

1. Mount your wood between centers and turn to the shape shown in Photo 2 and Figure 1 C1.

2. Remove the wood from the lathe, and mark the base as shown in Figure 1 B and Photo 3. The center is at "0"; the "1" is about 10-12 mm east of 0, "2" is 5-6 mm west, and 3 is 3-5 mm east. Experience will dictate which position is most pleasing to you. Note that the position of top of the cylinder is clearly marked



Photo 3

3. Mount the wood in the chuck as shown in Figure 1 C2 and Photo 4 and with tailstock in the center (0) as shown in Photo 5 and turn to the shape shown in Photo 6. *Leave about 1/2 inch of the cylinder full diameter at the tail stock.* Sand turned portion to 400 grit or better, and finish with finish of choice. Shellawax is ideal, but that is a personal preference



Photo 4

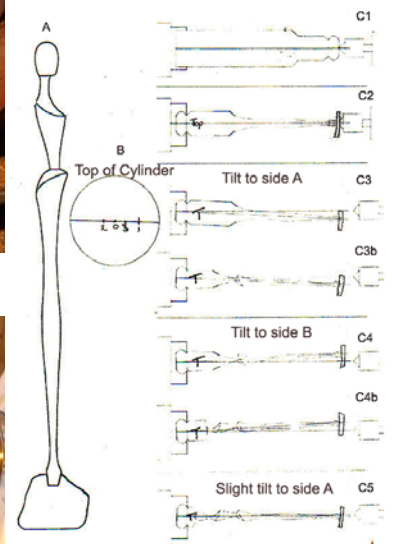


Figure 1

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Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7

4. With the “top” of the cylinder, marked T directly in the uppermost position, loosen the chuck and tilt the cylinder towards you about 10 mm, as shown in Figure 1C3 and Photo 7. *Use the tailstock to just hold the position of the piece using the first mark of “1” made in section #2 above. Make a small indent to facilitate repositioning, should that become necessary, but do not tighten tailstock.*

5. Very carefully, making very small cuts, turn as shown in Figure 1 C3b and Photo 8. Sand and finish.



Photo 9

6. Again, keeping the top up, loosen the chuck and remount the wood as shown in Figure 1C4. Position the tailstock gently in position “2” indicated in Figure 1B. Turn the neck as shown in Figure 1 C4b, then sand and finish.



Photo 8

7. Loosen the chuck again and tilt the piece slightly away from you, positioning the tailstock over the “3” mark seen in Figure 1B. Turn most of the head, sand and finish, then remove by your favourite conventional parting procedure, trying not to leave a pointy head which takes forever to sand. SNL fans can leave a cone head.



Photo 10

8. Cut the bottom of the cylinder with a small hand saw and mount on base of your choice. It can be rough lumber, turned, or even with the bark still on.

A few caveats are in order. As always, wear safety goggles or shield. The first off-center cuts are tricky and the wood can come out of the chuck - not a healthy proposition - avoid it! Second, potentially even more serious, is gender. I can't tell if the figurines are male or female. My wife can and I try to avoid making too many females; it can lead to marital woes. Hats - they're nice, sometimes. It's much easier to turn very thin hats from green wood and let them dry under an electric bulb while turning. Whimsical hats can be made from other woods also (e.g. top-hat from ebony) and I'd love to know how to turn a baseball cap, without any cutting afterward.

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model 25-650 (\$1799) 16" swing x 42" between centres, 360 degree swinging headstock, 1.5 hp electronically controlled variable speed motor, cast iron bed

General is noted for their manufacturing quality. Both of the above lathes have sturdy stands and accurately machined ways, tailstocks and banjos.

model 25-200 (\$549) 10" swing x 17 5/16" between centres, 360 degree swinging headstock, 3/4 hp electronically controlled variable speed motor, one piece cast iron frame and ways.

The General 'maxi lathe' has features not available from other mini lathes such as a longer bed, swinging headstock and 3/4 hp motor. This sets them apart, but also means that this lathe is more expensive to manufacture and purchase. Although this lathe is heavier than their competition, the headstock is easily removed, breaking down the weight to manageable sizes.

General will soon announce the availability of a line of tools adapted specifically for those who cannot use standard woodworking tools from a standing position. General had on display; a lathe, bandsaw, floor mounted drill press, planer and table saw, all redesigned for use by woodworkers who must either work from a seated position, or a wheelchair.

This is a first from a major manufacturer. To date only Oneway Manufacturing has such equipment with their 1236SD 'sit down' Lathe. For details see: <http://www.oneway.ca/lathes/1236SDlathe.htm>

Delta: For detailed specifications and purchasing information log on to: <http://www.deltaportercable.com/Products/Tools.aspx>

model 46-755X (\$1995) 16" swing x 42" between centres, steel bed and frame (not cast iron).

This lathe's frame and bed is quite stiff. It also comes with a 5 year warranty.

Busy Bee: For detailed specifications and purchasing information log on to: <http://busybeetools.ca/cgi-bin/picture10?&NETID=1113280310081797234&NTITEM=CT128>

model CT128 (\$1300) 18" swing x 47" between centres, 2 hp, electronically controlled variable speed motor, cast iron bed and stand legs. Busy Bee finally has a lathe worthy of consideration by a serious turner! Note that this lathe may require the addition of lateral stiffening to the frame if used for heavy work.

Laguna: For detailed specifications and purchasing information log on to: <http://www.lagunatools.com/platinumlathe1.htm>

model 18/47 'Platinum Series' (\$1695) 18" swing x 47" between centres, 2 hp, electronically controlled variable speed motor, cast iron bed and stand legs. Yes, Laguna now has a lathe smaller than a car. Note that this lathe may require the addition of lateral stiffening to the frame if used for heavy work.

Steel City: For detailed specifications and purchasing information log on to: http://www.steelcitytoolworks.com/products_tools.cfm?section=2&category=8&tool=60100

model 60100 (\$399) 10" swing x 15" between centres, 1/2 hp 'mini lathe', cast iron bed, electronically controlled variable speed motor. This lathe is a serious contender for the small lathe market. Steel City has managed to come up with a design that is sturdy and weighs a bit less than their competitors. Although this lathe looks similar to the 'other' makers of mini lathes, the castings are of a different design and the belt access doors are sturdier. Show demonstrator was using his, with three bed extenders, to make bed posts - without vibration or torsion problems. Model 60107 (5 fixed speeds) also available (\$299).

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Artistic Wood Supply (our own Peter Steenwyk) opened their booth this year and had trouble keeping up with the purchasing crowd. Peter had an impressive display of pen blanks, with irresistible pricing.

Visit the AWS web site at: <http://www.artisticwoodandtoolsupply.com/zen-cart/index.php>

The Ashley Isles tool line is also available from AWS

<http://www.ashleyisles.turningtools.co.uk/index.html>

As always, the Bit Lady (<http://www.bitlady.com/>) was a mandatory stop for an annual stocking up of drills and cutting bits. This year she added a few items such as a good assortment of diamond tools and real, Canadian made, Robertson screwdriver bits – with colour coded shafts to make them easy to find in your tool box.

In all, the show was a success for our guild. I'm looking forward to manning the booth again next year.

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courses you will then be allowed to use any/all of the industrial power gear in the shop during our own meetings.

The Ontario Wood Carvers Association and the Marketry Society of Canada are already using this workshop for regular workshop type meetings. We may be able to organize joint workshops here in the future with these two guilds.

To keep the workload for executive members and organizers at a reasonable level, we will begin the use of the Humber College facilities a bit on the cautious side.

More details will follow. As soon as firm dates and schedules are set, a broadcast message will be sent out to all members. We plan to have our first get together in the Humber College woodworking shop this coming September.

We have been approached by the Ontario Wood Carvers Association to have a wood turning added to their competition and show held annually in October. We have canvassed other woodturning guilds in the Southern Ontario area and find that all are quite interested in such an event. To this end, we will try to see if we can be included in this year's competition. Next year (October 2009) will be the 30th annual woodcarving competition and promises to be extraordinary. The woodcarver's show has traditionnally been an excellent event and we are pleased to have been asked to participate. Start planning to make your 'best pieces ever'.

Keep your tools sharp,