

TONY ENDHOVEN

Local Gifted Woodcarver Extraordinaire

By Sally Smid

Tony Endhoven immigrated from the Netherlands with his family in 1950, when he was 8 months old. That seems to have had an impact on him and his amazing carving, even today. Some of his most important work has had the theme of war. It seems that it is his way of paying tribute to the Canadian forces that were so instrumental in rescuing Holland from Nazi control in WWII. He created a very large panel that included 6 relief-carved scenes relating to past wars. This work won him an award for Best in Show at the Canadian Woodworking Championship. It now has a special place at the Base Borden Military Museum in Barrie. "I felt that this tribute piece would give back to those Canadian troops in a small way," he explained and he is happy that others can view it and also be prompted to remember their sacrifices. He also carved a separate piece in recognition of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, which is on display at the Mallory Coach House.

Tony is not exactly sure why he has pursued carving over all of these years, though his dad and sister were artistically talented as well. Tony has carved a large number of items over the years. He admits that most of his work has been given away as gifts, some has been commissioned and more was created for use in his church. Certainly, it was an interesting pass time when he was working at Maitland's Dupont plant. It is clear that his artistic ability goes even further than just a piece of wood and a knife. The process begins with detailed research and takes a lot of skill with drawing and design in many ways.

Some of his pieces seem to be work that is almost animated and appear to be 3D cartoon with more care and detail than imaginable. It could be likened to "painting with a knife and wood rather than a brush and canvas". Most of his work is considered to be that of caricature carving and has included topics such as Robin Hood, Robbie Burns, a Hamlet theme, an assortment of hockey players, and much more.

He has also used pyrography or wood burning skills in some of his pieces, most

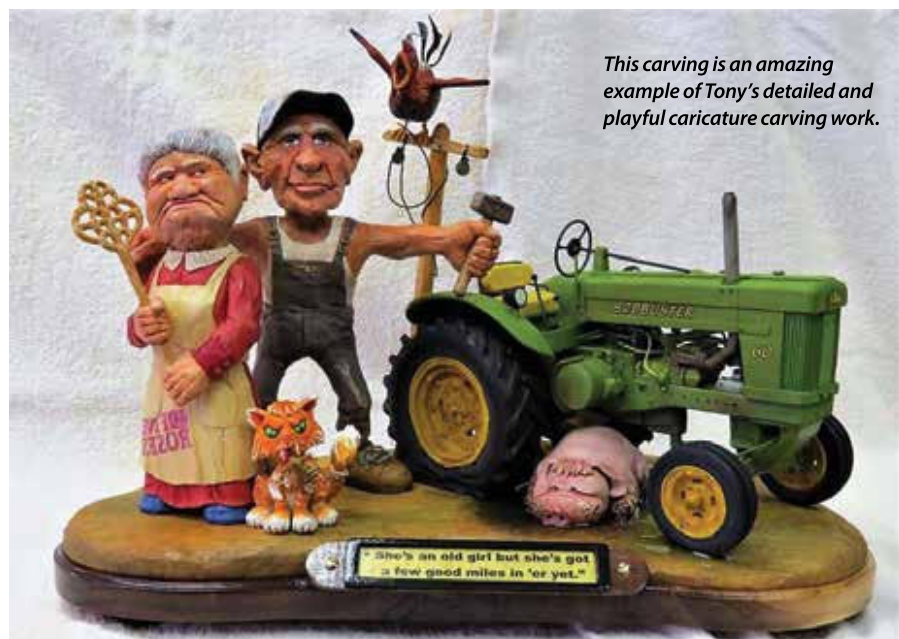
notably one entitled "A Death of Innocence". This work was a tribute to many who died at the hands of assassins. It is a powerful message about those like JFK, Marten Luther King, John Lennon and more who were lost too soon in such a tragic way. When asked what his future carving plans are, it was again to carve a piece that related to the war. Still a reoccurring theme in his work, but his carving often goes beyond making such tributes. It is an amazing legacy for his family and friends in many ways, whether it evokes an emotional reaction or brings a chuckle or sense of wonder. Tony is an amazing artist who continues to astonish all those who view his carvings.

There is no doubt that God has gifted him, but he remains very humble and unassuming. Often using his talent in donating and giving back to the community in a variety of ways. **He is a member of the St. Lawrence Woodcarvers that meets on Monday Evenings from 7 PM to 9 PM at the First Baptist Church on 5 Pine St. in Brockville from September to May** and new members are welcome to come and find out or participate in this interesting and rewarding hobby. **LH**

Tony Endhoven holds a carved bull and handler which is his latest in creation which he donated to a charity cause.



Tony's Death of Innocence portrays a collection of historical figures who were assassinated and were lost before their time.



This carving is an amazing example of Tony's detailed and playful caricature carving work.