

November 9, 2009

Dear OCC Member,

The Ontario Crafts Council means a great deal to me.

Over forty years ago I won two awards in the Canadian Guild of Crafts (Ontario) annual show at the Canadian National Exhibition. This started me on my long association with the Ontario Crafts Council and my exciting career as a craftsman. It has been a very exciting path filled with many happy memories and career defining opportunities.

In February of 1974 I was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Guild and helped found the Ontario Crafts Council through the amalgamation of the Canadian Guild of Crafts (Ontario) and the Ontario Crafts Federation. My Board duties continued until the fall of 1978 when I returned to school to further my craft studies. I rejoined the Board in 1982 and was elected President in 1983. For the following eighteen years I served on various committees of the OCC, continued to enter juried shows and exhibit at their Gallery.

Throughout my forty year involvement with the OCC, I have met many life-long friends and grew immeasurably both as a person and as a craftsperson. This growth is largely due to the opportunities and support that the OCC has made available to all of us.



Professional development, financial support, inspiring publications, local and international exhibition opportunities, mentoring, and public awareness – this is the impact of the OCC.

The OCC represents who we are and strives to challenge us to evolve as craft practitioners. **It is an organization defined by us; its members, supporters and donors.** Our organization works tirelessly to support the overall development of craft in Ontario. It does much to promote public awareness of craft, and the talent of its members.

Over, please...

I believe strongly in the OCC and its mandate. I know that I would not be where I am today if it was not for the support of the OCC and the availability of its expertise. I have gained so much from the OCC but I have also enjoyed being able to give back a little of myself in the process. Much of my giving has been through time, but I have also invested my support through the gift of money. I encourage you to join me by supporting the work of our important organization.

Over the past year the world has experienced an unprecedented economic downturn. We have all been affected by the considerable financial challenges these circumstances present. This year, your donation and continued support is even more necessary.

Today, I am asking for you to support the work of the Ontario Crafts Council through a gift of \$50 or more.

We *must* support the OCC to help maintain the programs that are so important to us all. Together, we can ensure that in forty years our OCC is able to continue inspiring emerging makers, helping them to establish their own exciting and rewarding careers in craft.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald A. Stuart", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Donald A. Stuart, C.M., O.Ont., RCA
OCC President, 1983-84

P.S. We want to make giving easy! Consider becoming a monthly donor. Through a gift of just \$5, \$15 or \$20 each month you will be making a larger annual gift while providing the OCC with a dependable source of income throughout the upcoming year.