

## George Burt Artist Sketch

George started wood turning in the late 1980's, making gifts for family and friends. The first dried flower vases were turned from cedar rail farm fencing. It was his wish to preserve its memory. Later, people who appreciated his work, would bring other pieces of local woods from fallen or trimmed trees and it was then he started turning vases and bowls from local woods. He always felt there was no need to buy exotic woods from other countries when our own native woods are so colorful and beautiful.

When asked to participate in the Uniquely Ontario Artisans Show, which was part of the Toronto Gift Show, the response was overwhelming. He supplied vases to a chain of twenty stores in France, his work was displayed with The Group of Seven in the National Art Gallery in Ottawa and one of Canada's largest gift ware distributors wanted ten thousand pieces a year. He disliked the idea of mass producing product, but did supply as many as he was able to make himself.

George's work has been sold through several galleries across Canada from Jasper B.C. to Perth Ontario. He has participated in many of the Ontario Craft Shows including the Toronto One Of a Kind Show and Sale for ten successful and rewarding years. The vases have been sent or taken as gifts to all parts of the world including all countries in Europe, Asia, Australia, Hawaii, the Orient and U.S.A. even to a Tibetan Monastery. They are truly Canadian and make wonderful gifts for weddings, housewarmings or any special occasion. He was commissioned to provide a special piece for the Newmarket Theater for the Arts and also reproductions of broken or damaged heritage items as well as custom pieces like a wooden bell for a copula, mortar and pestle and burial urns.

He also has been pleased to share what he has learned and experienced over the years with others interested in wood and turning. Two of the many that stand out are a talented wood carver from Barbados who lived with the Burts for a month and the second, a women from Bradford who has found great joy in what she has learned and made by being in the shop with him an afternoon a week.

For him, joy lies in taking wood that would normally rot in the ground or be used for firewood and creating something that brings beauty and pleasure to others. He has even turned hydro poles! His wonderful artistic ability to let the wood grain influence the shape and size of the piece, makes each one unique. Lovers of wood, love his work. The tags he uses for each piece says it all..... " This is made with the hope it provide you as much enjoyment as it did for me in its making"