



Lionel Bedard

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I am a local artist, born and raised in Ottawa. I have always been drawn to the world of wood. My first lathe was purchased over twenty-five years ago when I started woodturning. Eventually progressing to a 24 inch swing lathe allowed me to create larger pieces.

I am always searching for unique characteristics in a variety of wood, domestic and exotic to turn functional as well as artistic pieces. I look for different shapes and forms to incorporate in my vases, bowls, platters, urns and non-functional pieces. I have introduced colour and gold leafing, stabilization as well as inlays into some pieces for added interest. Natural edges as well as flaws in the wood are often used as features.

Over the years I have been fortunate to attend symposiums and demonstrations from renowned turners, with the goal to learn new skills and push my boundaries further. Additionally, I have been pleased to share my skills and knowledge as a demonstrator at various woodturning clubs in Canada and the US.

For many years I participated in local studio tours and art shows. My work has been sold through various galleries, and presented to dignitaries by Foreign Affairs Canada. Several years ago, I was commissioned by the NCC to turn a time capsule using wood from the grounds of Rideau Hall. This piece is on display in the cafeteria at Rideau Hall. I was also very pleased when several of my pieces found a home and are displayed among the six Official Residences of Canada.

I was a founding member of the Bytown Woodturners in Ottawa and have remained very active. Our club holds many hands-on workshops of which I am one of the instructors. I particularly enjoy encouraging new turners to grow their skills so they can discover the endless possibilities of woodturning.