

# ONTARIO woodcarver



**“Flowers in a Vase”  
by**

**David Alpearca  
Born in Portugal, now  
for the past 13 years  
lives in Canada.**

**His carvings have  
won Ribbons in two  
OWCA Supported  
shows and  
Competitions.**

## **Welcome to the OWCA On-Line Publication - Winter Edition ~ February 2025**

**By Murray Lincoln**

Welcome to the new OWCA Online Magazine. This is our newest approach to help connect with Carvers across Ontario. Our last Printed Copy of the OWCA Magazine was in the Summer of 2024. With the increased cost of Printing (3 times in one year) and Mailing, plus the end of personnel/volunteers to work with the "Publisher Program", we made the decision to pursue other possible modes of communications.

Poling other Wood Carving groups and organizations we found we were one of the last to continue to produce the Printed copies. Many found that the younger carvers preferred using their mobile devices and old carvers were now using Tablets, which is the larger mobile device. Admittedly there are a few that still want to have the "hard copy", the Printed Copy on Paper.

Businesses such as Staples provide access to large volume photocopiers that print in Colour or Black and White. You need only to purchase a 'Copy Card' to do the printing.

The PDF File that each carver will be with their email or provided by the Link can be stored on a USB stick or downloaded to your mobile device. I emphasize "attached to their email or provided by the Link" here. For the Clubs, a contact person for the Club will have access to the PDF File - which is downloaded and then possibly sent out to each Carver.

There was a problem when a Club received THEIR ONE PRINTED COPY - it was very likely not passed on to others to read, being stalled in a carver's "reading room" (the bathroom or wherever).

The single most important thing about the Magazine is CONTENT. Stories about carvers, photos from carving shows and competitions, ideas and suggestions to help carvers, and in particular Carving Patterns - patterns that carvers have found useful, or pattern ideas they have created.

You will see that we are using Google Docs to produce this issue. Google Docs is free to use. And the best part is carvers can contribute an article, idea, or plans to be included in the final OWCA Edition coming up in the near future. Instead of JUST ONE EDITOR - we could have CONTRIBUTING EDITORS from a Club, a Region or a Show and Competition. These contributions will be assembled and added to upcoming issues.

### **Message from the President of the OWCA**

**By John Lemay**

ONTARIO WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION is excited to introduce to you a brand-new Board of Directors. There are new faces and valued experienced returning members. The great thing about this board is that the members span the province and will provide representation for all areas of Ontario. With this change

we are reinvigorated and ready to bring exciting new changes, including modernizing the organization and adding value to our members.

**OWCA Board of Directors:**

President: John Lemay

Past President: Murray Lincoln

Treasurer: Karen Walker

Secretary: Steve Hibbard

Insurance Director: Lynn Burnett

Education Director: Lloyd Thomas

Director at Large: Jeff Hewitt

**OWCA Mission Statement:**

1. Help the interested public get started in woodcarving.
2. Help current carvers increase their carving skills
3. Assist and promote all carving clubs within Ontario in order to direct new and experienced carvers to their locations

I'd like to take a minute to introduce myself. My name is John Lemay and I was elected as the New President of OWCA on January 7, 2025. I've had a passion for carving for over 30 years. I have received several awards across Canada and the United States for my carvings. I enjoy sharing my love of carving with both new and experienced carvers. One of the things I enjoy most is teaching the art of carving and seeing the excitement and joy and the "a-ha" moment on the faces of the carvers. My Working career has given me a vast knowledge of business and project management. Using this experience, I will work with the Board and membership to move OWCA forward to meet the needs of current and future wood carvers.

You may have heard that there were struggles to keep the OWCA organization running and there were concerns that it may even shut down. I am here to tell you that OWCA is alive and well and we are committed to being stronger than ever, going forward.

Where are we going? As I mentioned above, the Board and I are working to modernize and revamp OWCA to better serve our membership. Some of the projects we are working on are:

- On-line interactive magazine (COMING SOON!),
- Insurance coverage for wood carving clubs,
- Updated Website,
- Seminars and workshops,

- Links to carvers, retailers and other carving related sites,
- Carving Round-ups,
- A full list of all carving clubs in Ontario,
- OWCA Directors Dedicated to your area in Ontario,
- Carving patterns, tutorials and helpful hints,
- A buy and sell marketplace for OWCA members and
- Expanding our educational footprint in the community, such as schools and colleges.

Our goals may seem high, but they are achievable, with your help. Your membership to OWCA will not only give you availability to all of our offerings but will also help OWCA introduce the general public to woodcarving, help our existing members and help carving clubs throughout Ontario (as per our Mission Statement)

To become a member of OWCA go to our Website - <https://ontariowoodcarvers.ca/> on the top right corner of the website, click on Membership and follow the instructions. If you prefer to pay by cheque, rather than electronically, contact me at the email address listed below. We welcome all your input and ideas and encourage you to reach out to us via my email: [president@ontariowoodcarvers.com](mailto:president@ontariowoodcarvers.com).

Sincerely,

**John Lemay**

OWCA President

### **Introducing John Lemay - the New President of the OWCA**



The Ontario Wood Carving Association (OWCA) is proud to welcome John Lemay as our new President. With a passion for wood carving spanning nearly 30 years, John brings a wealth of experience, dedication, and leadership to our community.

An accomplished carver, John has received numerous awards in both Canada and the USA. Alongside his wife Claire, he has attended carving roundups across North America, honing his craft and sharing his expertise with fellow enthusiasts. As an active member of five carving clubs and a marquetry club, John remains deeply engaged in the carving world.

Beyond wood carving, John's professional background is equally impressive. He began his career as a licensed carpenter before pursuing further education at Conestoga College, where he studied Facilities Management, Project Management, and Logistics—a commitment that spanned over a decade. His career took him to J.E. Seagram's, where he served as Facilities Manager and undertook several

management courses. Later, he played a key role in converting a Seagram building into a 200-office facility, ensuring its architectural integrity was preserved—a project that earned national recognition.

John's expertise in consulting has impacted high-tech companies and chemistry labs across Ontario, Massachusetts, and North Carolina, where he assessed space requirements, designed future expansions, and managed large-scale relocations, ensuring seamless transitions for teams of up to 200 staff. His leadership experience includes overseeing teams of managers, staff, and contractors throughout his career.

Now retired, John devotes much of his time to his passion for carving, actively participating in four different carving clubs. As OWCA's new President, his vision and expertise will help guide the organization forward, fostering a strong and vibrant woodcarving community.

Please join us in welcoming John Lemay to this exciting new role!

### Introducing Karen Walker



The Ontario Wood Carving Association is pleased to introduce **Karen Walker**, a passionate and talented woodcarver with deep roots in the Fergus area. Having lived in and around the region her entire life, Karen now resides just outside of Alma, north of Kitchener. She is an active member of the **Guelph Carving Club**, where she continues to refine her craft.

Karen's journey in wood carving has spanned many years, though life's demands often pulled her away. However, her love for the art never faded. She has a particular passion for **caricature carving**, drawing inspiration from the book *The Full Moon Saloon* by the **Caricature Carvers of America (CCA)**. This collection of whimsical and expressive figures encouraged her to explore the unique storytelling aspect of caricature carving.

Another pivotal moment in Karen's carving journey came in 1978 at the **Canadian National Exhibition (CNE)**, where she saw *The Voyagers*, a breathtaking work by **Benoi Deschenes**. Witnessing the transformation of a simple piece of wood into something truly magical left a lasting impression and fueled her desire to pursue carving.

Karen's enthusiasm and appreciation for the artistry of wood carving continue to inspire those around her. We look forward to seeing her contributions and creativity flourish within the carving community!

### Introducing Lynn Burnett



The Ontario Wood Carving Association is pleased to introduce Lynn Burnett, Lynn's passion for carving began in childhood when she received a small jackknife as a gift from her grandmother. Growing up, her love for wildlife and the natural world was nurtured by her parents, who encouraged camping, exploring the outdoors, and a deep appreciation for animals. Today, she

continues to find inspiration in nature, collecting wood while camping, canoeing, and adventuring outdoors.

For the past 18 years, Lynn has dedicated herself to mastering the art of wood carving. She has studied under world-class carvers, refining her skills in using knives, chisels, power tools, and paint to transform wood into three-dimensional sculptures and intricate relief carvings.

Her work has earned numerous first-place awards in carving competitions and has been featured twice in *Wildfowl Carving* magazine's *Competition* edition. Lynn has completed commissioned pieces for collectors across Canada and the U.S. and was recently interviewed for a newscast highlighting her carving process and participation in an Artists' Studio Tour.

One of her greatest joys is inspiring others to discover and embrace the art of wood carving.

### **Introducing Jeff Hewitt**



The Ontario Wood Carving Association is pleased to welcome Jeff Hewitt.

Originally from North Bay, Jeff moved to Ottawa in June 2024. His journey into wood carving began in the late 1990s, though he took a break as family and career responsibilities took priority. With a 35-year career in the education field, Jeff remained passionate about carving and returned to it more regularly in 2012 when he joined the North Bay Carving Club. Unfortunately, due to the impact of COVID-19 and the loss of the club's venue, the group was forced to disband.

Now in Ottawa, Jeff is an active member of the Outaouais Carving Club and is excited to contribute to the Ontario Wood Carving Association's Executive team. He looks forward to continuing his carving journey and sharing his passion for the craft with fellow enthusiasts.

### **Introducing Steve Hibbard**



The Ontario Wood Carving Association is pleased to welcome Steve Hibbard.

Born in Toronto, Steve moved to Cambridge in the early 1970s, where he raised his family. He dedicated 31 years to the Waterloo Regional Police Service, retiring at the rank of Superintendent. Following his retirement, he accepted a position as Deputy Director at the Ontario Police College, which led to his relocation to Tillsonburg, where he now resides.

After retiring in 2009, Steve discovered his passion for wood carving and joined the Tri-County Carvers in Otterville. Over the years, he has attended numerous carving workshops and seminars, continuously honing his skills. For the past ten years, he has also shared his knowledge by instructing at the Ingersoll Senior Centre carver's group.

For Steve, carving is more than just a hobby—it's a passion and an opportunity to escape into creativity.

### **Introducing Murray Lincoln**



**Past President, Ontario Wood Carvers Association**

Murray Lincoln's journey with wood carving began at the age of seven, sitting alongside his grandfather and whittling a simple stick down to a pile of wood chips with a pocket knife. That moment sparked a lifelong passion for the craft. Now, at 81 years old, Murray has explored and mastered a wide variety of carving styles, each one deepening his appreciation for the art.

Over the years, Murray has carved in many places across Canada, from coast to coast and in almost every province and territory. His love for carving has also taken him around the world—carving in Hong Kong, experiencing the intricate artistry of Thailand, and meeting incredible carvers in Kenya. Through his craft, Murray has not only created works of art but has also used carving as a way to help people who cannot help themselves, believing that this simple act can truly change lives.

For the past five years, Murray has had the privilege of serving as President of the Ontario Wood Carvers Association. During his tenure, he has enjoyed connecting with carvers from across the province and participating in numerous carving shows—each event reinforcing the strong sense of community within the OWCA.

Now, as he steps into the role of Past President, Murray remains an active and dedicated member, supporting John Lemay as he takes on the leadership of the association. With a full life of wood, sharp knives, and countless wood chips, Murray looks forward to seeing the OWCA grow and thrive in the years ahead.

## Highlights from the Toronto “Wood Show 2025”



by John Lemay

The annual Toronto "Wood Show," held from January 17 to 19, 2025, at the International Centre – Hall 1 (6900 Airport Rd, Mississauga, ON), was a resounding success, bringing together woodcarvers, enthusiasts, and vendors from across Ontario. John Lemay, the newly appointed President of the Ontario Wood Carving Association (OWCA), shared some remarkable insights and achievements from this

year's event. John has taken the leadership reins from Murray Lincoln, who now serves as Past President. Here are the highlights from this vibrant three-day show:

### A Record-Breaking Show

- The Toronto "Wood Show" was highly successful for both organizers and vendors, attracting significant interest and engagement over the three days.
- The Ontario Wood Carving Association (OWCA) was well-represented with **two display tables** and **four teaching tables** dedicated to carving wands.

### Increased Interest in Wood Carving Clubs

- The OWCA team interacted with numerous visitors seeking information about carving clubs across Ontario.

- Clubs in attendance experienced unprecedented levels of interest, with many attendees signing up for memberships during the show—a rarity in past events.
- Several new members joined clubs after participating in the carving activities at the OWCA booth.
- The widespread interest indicates a growing demand for accessible carving opportunities and resources.



### Wand Carving Workshops: A Major Success

- The wand-carving workshops were a focal point of the OWCA's booth and generated immense interest among attendees.

Over the course of the show, **118 people** participated in the carving workshops, including approximately:

- **100 adults**
- **18 children** aged 11 to 18.
- Nearly all participants completed their carvings, with only 3 or 4 exceptions.
- The activity was universally enjoyed, with many expressing enthusiasm and gratitude for the opportunity.

### Overflowing Interest and Demand

- The demand for workshop space exceeded expectations, with several attendees waiting over an hour for a seat.
- Unfortunately, space limitations prevented everyone interested from participating, underscoring the popularity of hands-on learning opportunities.

### Education and Outreach

- OWCA representatives were kept busy answering a wide range of questions about wood carving, including:
  - Recommendations on where to buy knives and tools.
  - Guidance on the best tools for beginners.
- The workshops served as an excellent introduction to wood carving for many attendees, and the teaching efforts received high praise from both show organizers and other clubs.

### Positive Feedback and Future Plans

- The teaching format was widely appreciated by attendees, organizers, and other clubs.
- The event's success has set a strong precedent for continuing this approach in future shows.



## Reflections from John Lemay

John Lemay emphasized the rewarding nature of the event, stating, "We were exhausted, but it was well worth it as we now have more people interested in wood carving." The OWCA's efforts have not only introduced a new wave of people to the art of carving but also strengthened connections within Ontario's carving community.

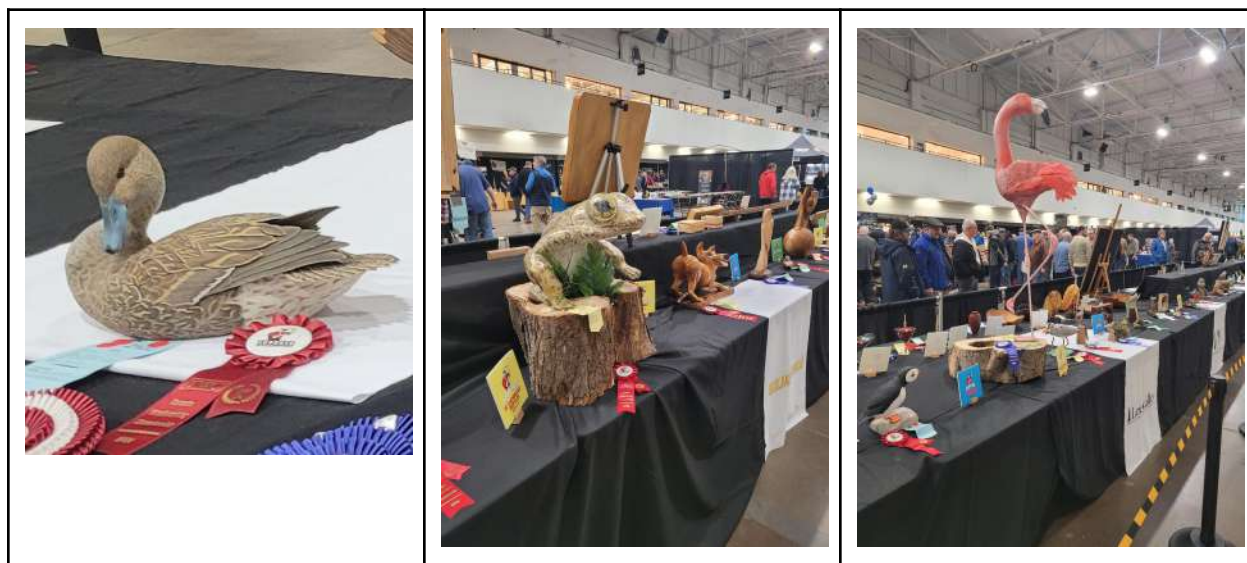
## Conclusion

The 2025 Toronto "Wood Show" was a celebration of craftsmanship, community, and education. The OWCA's dedication to teaching and outreach played a significant role in the event's success, inspiring a new generation of woodcarvers and ensuring the continued growth of this cherished art form.

## Below: Photos from the Toronto Wood Show

To see more - Go to the Ontario Wood Carvers Association's Facebook Page - Album

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1020230946803408&type=3>



## UPCOMING WOOD CARVING SHOWS AND COMPETITION IN ONTARIO

### Carving show

**CARVING SHOW April 12, 2025 - To All our carving friends and clubs.**

President David Hatton - [quintewoodcarvers@yahoo.ca](mailto:quintewoodcarvers@yahoo.ca)

Show Chair: Karen Munro - [monrok@rocketmail.com](mailto:monrok@rocketmail.com)

[Table application](#)

## UPCOMING “CANADIAN NATIONALS WILDFOWL CARVING CHAMPIONSHIP”



### REPORT FROM CARVING CLUBS Woodstock Art Gallery Exhibition

**By Steve Hibbard**

The Tri-County Carvers were presented with a unique challenge. In October 2023 one of our club members, John Feick, was approached by the Director/Curator of the Woodstock Art Gallery, Mary Reid, with a proposal. She asked if the Club would be interested in using five display cases at the Gallery to exhibit our carvings. Wow! The members were at first a little shocked because none of us consider ourselves artists. Once the initial surprise was over, it was all hands-on deck to create projects that were worthy of the opportunity.

Ms. Reid was interested in the Club creating group projects where all members contributed, much like the Otterville Saloon we completed two years prior.

After much discussion, members decided to do two projects for the larger display cases and find suitable carvings for the three smaller cases. One project was a 1923 Otterville Dairy truck being pulled out of a bog by a team of horses. The second project was an Amish barn raising. Each member picked the project that they wanted to work on and developed their own ideas and designs to fit the theme. Work progressed through the winter months and into the summer.

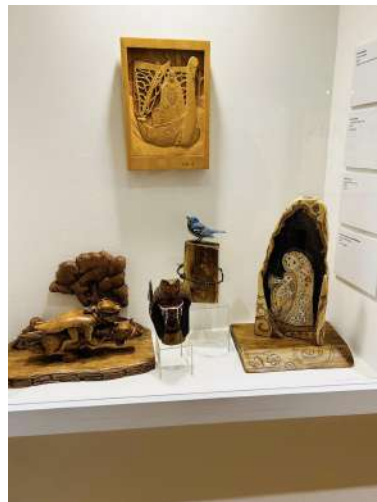
In late summer Mary Reid requested: a progress report, a written history of the Tri-County Carvers Club and a description of the carvings to be displayed. That is when we realized that we had to pick up the pace to meet the deadline, otherwise our exhibit windows would go to someone else.

The two major projects along with: a dragon skull, by Mike Sauka; an Unstable stable, by John Feick; and miscellaneous prized carvings by other members were delivered to the Woodstock Art Gallery on October 1, 2024.

The exhibit's official opening was held on Saturday, October 19, 2024. Several of our members were on hand to demonstrate carving and speak to the public. There was a genuine interest in our craft and the club member's talent.

The invitation from Mary Reid at the Woodstock Art Gallery to the Tri-County Carvers led to a wonderful

experience for the Club. As members, we became closer to each other as we worked through our projects and received acknowledgement for our work. The Art Gallery was able to share with the public an art form that is not normally on view locally.



## TNCC - The True North

**Caricature Carvers** - ZOOM meeting  
the Third Thursday of each month 6:30 PM -  
8:00 PM

If you are interested in improving your Caricature Carvings or perhaps starting to try your hand at Caricature Carving, you will find the TNCC Meeting very helpful. Mark Sheridan and John Andre, two experienced Caricature Carvers offer their expertise in each meeting. The ZOOM meeting is recorded and uploaded to

YouTube. You will find the videos under "Murray Lincoln's Channel".

If you are interested, email Mark Sheridan at [mark.sheridan@sympatico.ca](mailto:mark.sheridan@sympatico.ca). Mark will get you on the email list and a few days before the monthly meeting, you will receive an email you the necessary Links and Info needed to join into a meeting.



## Pattern Ideas for Wood Carving

By Murray Lincoln

Over the years as I progressed in my carving, ideas of what I would carve next was always front and centre. If I had an IDEA for a carving, where could I find a pattern for that IDEA? So, in the early days of my journey I attended Wood Carving Shows. Seeing what others carved helped me. Taking a photo helped to capture the IDEA. Then I began to work on drawing the IDEA and perhaps doing a cutout of it.

I can draw as I am an artist. As others saw my carvings they wanted to know where I got the pattern from, or if I had the patterns and would I mind sharing them. The photocopier was used many times to help my friends.

As time went on and the Internet became easier to use, carvers discovered something entitled "Pinterest" where people post photos of things they have made or perhaps ideas they have collected from others. It is kind of like keeping a scrapbook with favorite pictures stored inside.

At a carving show I heard carvers explain how they found an IDEA from images posted in Pinterest. Patterns were not given so they made their own. Their carving wasn't exactly like the ones they had found - but close.

Fast forward here, to the year of 2023 - 2024. It seemed that almost SUDDENLY something entitled "Ai" started appearing everywhere. At first "Ai" (Artificial Intelligence) from what I learned was used by folk to write papers. The most talked about area we heard about was when College/University Students had been caught using "Ai" to write the papers they needed to pass a class. News media followed these stories and also began reporting that authorities in schools were taking steps to limit the use of "Ai". Government leaders became concerned that it was possible to now have "Ai" possibly forge messages from Politicians... and today even create images of Politicians along with making his or her image come alive and speak with a duplicate of their voices.

Yikes! Imagine having an Image of a Politician that might be telling "Lies"... or saying things that were never to be said in public!

I could go on and on about the new issues the community is experiencing as "Ai" has come alive.

Personally as an artist, cartoonist and illustrator, I wondered about how I might experiment with the power of this new "fad" of making it work for me. So I began in early 2024 trying to learn more about this new world of "Ai".

I found that first I needed to learn a new way to communicate with the Programs, to tell it what I wanted to see or have it appear in an image I needed. I learned that I needed to create a "PROMPT" which was done by writing sentences that describe what I want to see in my image. There I needed to at times change the order of my words. I found there was a better way to use better words to get amazing results. It almost shocked me to witness the power of the "Ai" I was working with.

Then I asked myself the question, “How could I use this in Wood Carving?” Could I create patterns and new IDEAS for myself. The answer came so fast that it astounded me.

The best part was that it DID NOT COST ME ANYTHING TO USE IT. “Ai” is free for the most part. But as time goes on and more people see the possibilities, programmers are now developing new ways that “Ai” can be used in easier ways.

That is how I started. And if you would like to learn how, I can help you. I have now helped a number of my friends enter this exciting new world.

However, that is not the reason I am here with this article. I have created Patterns for carvers to use, each one is created as an IDEA starter. Made with a PROMPT to hopefully prompt you to carve one of all of these images.

How do you use them?

Print the pages with the image, perhaps two copies. Then cut out the image from the photocopy and trace on to the wood. Again, these are IDEAS to kick start your next carving. There is no **front view/side view of the image**. It is up to you to draw that for your own use. As time goes on, and I get a carving completed, I will also have the **front view/side view of the image** completed. Or I may have “Ai” create that of the Image I have. Yes - that could be done.

When you complete your carving, send the Photo to me  
- Murray Lincoln  
[murray.lincoln@gmail.com](mailto:murray.lincoln@gmail.com)  
I will publish it in this OnLine Magazine.



**Old Dog**

Enlarge the image as desired...







Old Horse



COWBOY

