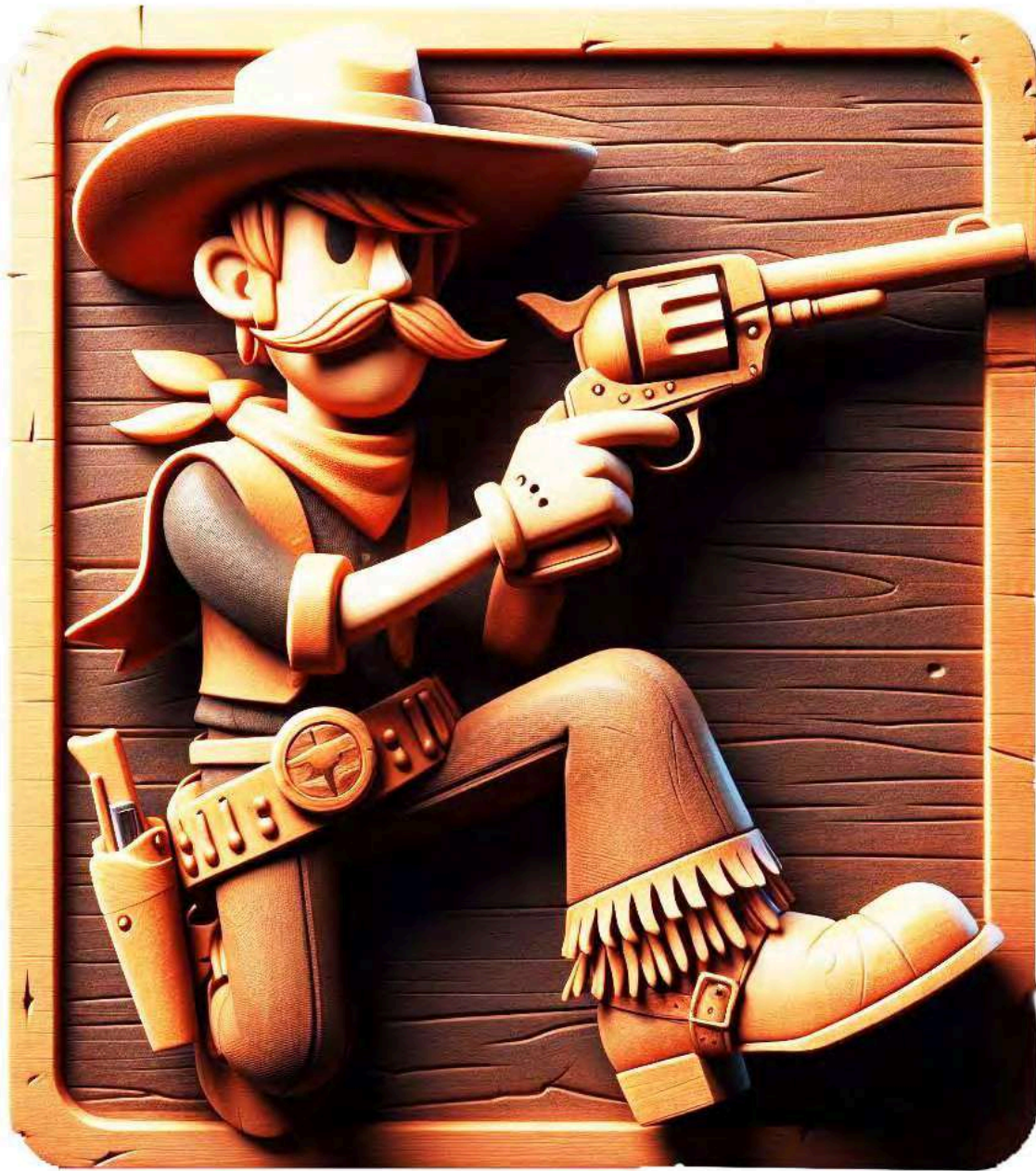




COWBOY - Possible relief carving





A New Section for Our Magazine, featuring Carvers and their Carvings

Meet David Alpearca - You likely noticed his beautiful Carving on our Front Page



My name is David Alpearca. I am 43, born in Portugal, and have lived in Canada for 13 years. Ever since I was a kid, I have liked to draw and mold clay that my grandmother would give me.

At 17, I left school and became an apprentice cabinet and furniture maker, where I developed a passion for woodworking. As the years passed I learned the trade where I learned building furniture and restoration.

One day, I attended a crafting fair with my girlfriend, who is now my wife. During this fair, I saw this wood sculpture and I was fascinated with the person's work. I thought to myself why wouldn't I try since I was familiar with wood, at this time I was 21.

As I started to look into it I decided to make my first piece which was "Our Lady Of Fatima", but I faced a challenge I didn't have the proper tools, so I decided to make some tools of my own, with time passing I was able to buy a set of hand made gauges. I started to create my own techniques and improve each time I carved a piece. As time passed people started to invite me to attend fairs where I would sell my pieces and work on sight, where people could see me and how I enjoyed doing it.

The Portuguese economy had a crisis, so my wife and I decided to move to Canada with our daughter where we had to start a new life. I was more or less 7 years without carving.

One day my family and I went to the "Hamilton WoodWorking Show" where there was a wood carving competition, so my wife encouraged me to start carving once again so I could participate in the next show. After then, I participated in the "Toronto WoodWorking Show" where I entered a piece, which was a "Jester" and I found out I won third-best of class in the novice category

After that, COVID-19 appeared and all shows were canceled, but I kept carving and improving since I stopped carving for a long period of time.

After COVID-19 the shows started to return in 2023, I participated in the "Hamilton WoodWorking Show" and won the second-best of the show in the intermediate category with my relief garden piece.

In 2024, I participated in other shows while entering several pieces, I won the best of the show with the "Nativity" and third best of the show with the "Flowers In a Vase" in the open category, and during the show, I was invited to participate in the "Wonder Of Wood 2024 Show And Competition" where I won the best of the show with the "Native Women".

The most recent show that I participated in was "Toronto WoodWorking Show 2025" where I won several prizes once again I won second best of the show with the "Native Women" and also won third best of the show with the "Nativity".



Throughout my life, I have faced some challenges like moving countries, and starting a new life but that never stopped me from doing what I most enjoy which is wood carving, throughout this journey, I have met some great people during these shows who have encouraged me to continue and have appreciated my work, I would like these shows to continue so I could follow my passion for wood carving.

Carvings by David Alpearca



Margie Cooper ... Niagara Woodcarvers Association



Way back in the fall of 1987 , I met Bill Gerber , a friend of my husband, who repaired lawn mowers. When we picked up our mower, Bill asked me if I would like to see his carvings. I was amazed, floor to ceiling shelves of his carvings in his basement. I started messing around with x-acto knives and scrap pieces of 2x4 's . That Christmas , my husband gave me two of Bill's knives and told me that he had signed me up for carving classes starting in January. Bill was a skilled knife maker and I now own several more. The teachers of the class were called the Wood Knots. They were Charlie Coates, Doug Robertson and Leighton Spicer. They were the founding fathers of the Niagara Woodcarvers Association. I joined the club in 1988. Through the club, I met people who became friends. Some of those friends became like family. I have a hobby I truly enjoy. I am so blessed!



This is the Old Woman in the Shoe carving done by laminating 6 layers of cottonwood together to get the shape. There are little gnomes out front and one hiding in the upstairs window keeping watch. It took me approximately 6 months to do. I learned about cottonwood carving by taking a seminar from my friend Stephan Forrin. He has been a true friend and mentor. Cottonwood carving has become my favorite! As you can see, I have a little stash ready for future projects!

This is a Celtic cross and dragon that I carved from butternut. I was sent the image as a St. Patrick's day greeting from relatives in Ireland.



These are two of my favourite carvings. The guardian is carved from butternut and mounted on a piece of driftwood. The woodcarver is carved from basswood. The patterns are from Carving Gargoyles by Shawn Cipa.





The Winged Lion from Carving Fantasy & Legend Figures in Wood also by Shawn Cipa. Below is my work in progress. I started it last summer and it was set aside when I was getting ready for our show this past November and then it was time to carve Christmas ornaments for friends and family. I hope to have my lion finished by the summer.



This is the current project I am working on. The theme for the People's Choice for our woodcarving show was a dragon. While on Pinterest looking for inspiration, I came across this image (centre) and decided to turn it into a wood burning. I used a cheap dollar store plaque. My daughter in law saw it in progress and proclaimed.... MINE!!! Then my brother saw it and wanted it too. At the show, a friend also requested one... so I did a third. Brother now wants the one in progress... mustard instead of ketchup. I absolutely will not do one with relish!!



Meet Daniel Belton Nkansah



Daniel is not a Canadian Carver, but rather has come to know Carvers in Canada and also the USA. He is a talented and dedicated carver, who creates amazing carvings using an Exacto Knife. His carvings are extremely small - in fact that is what he specializes in doing. And his carvings go to different parts of the world as he has become known world wide for his unique talent.

I have a unique relationship with him, in that I call him “my son” and to him I am known as “Dad”

He describes himself in this following way...

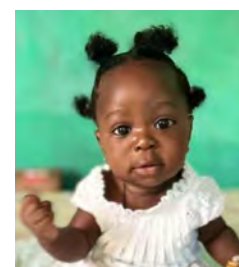
I'm a wood carver by nature.

Friendly, kind and simple from west Africa Ghana



Daniel Married Abigail in December 2023 and last September 2024 they have a new addition to their family,

Nyhiraba Ganunong Nkansah a beautiful baby girl.



This is Daniel's story....

My name is Daniel Belton Nkansah, I was born on September 6,1993 at Kwahu Dan in the Eastern region of Ghana. I am chocolate in complexion and like singing, drawing, playing soccer, Carving and finally sharing in my church, sharing about Jesus.

The names of my parents are Alex Frimpong and Vidam Afansa from Kwahu Obomeng and Twenedurase. I have four siblings.

I started my education, first in the year 1996 in Extra preparatory school then stopped and continued in the Blessed Assurance preparatory school, Banaman school in happy souls Academy in the year 2008.

I furthered my education in Kinbu senior high school in 2009 to 2012 of which I obtained a certificate as a wood work student. But I couldn't make it to college after high school, that ended my education level.

About my art work, it began in 2002 when I was in Class four(4) in Blessed Assurance preparatory school. It was on vacation when I heard a voice saying pick up a piece of FireWood from the school canteen and a blade to Carve out a Coca-Cola bottle, after adhering to the voices I couldn't Carve out the Coca-Cola bottle but ended up carving a human beings Head and body. Right from there my art work began and keeps on developing every year after year.

<https://www.facebook.com/daniel.nkansah.140> <https://paystack.shop/nkansahs-mini-carvings>



THE PRAIRIE CANADA CARVERS ASSOCIATION (PCCA) and CARVING ACROSS CANADA

By Murray Lincoln

In January 2025 I met a new friend by way of an Email. His name is Doug Fyfe. Doug lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba and wrote to the OWCA offering a Press Release about the “Prairie Canada Carvers Association”, you will read later in this article.



Doug wrote...

Hello my name is Doug Fyfe. I am the media contact for Prairie Canada Carvers Association (PCCA). PCCA is located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Below is a link to PCCA’s website. Please checkout the EVENT tab in the menu bar.

[Prairie Canada Carvers Association Inc. – PCCA](#)

I have attached a copy of the announcement for PCCA’s Annual Show and Competition. If you have a newsletter is there a chance you can put all or any part of this announcement in your newsletter.

This year’s Show and Competition is

“2025 show is being held on April 11, 12th and 13th.”

My contact info is below. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns about the attached (read it below).

Doug Fyfe Email: dougmfyfe@shaw.ca Cell ph: 204-396-6409 Home ph: 204-254-0880

Doug’s email was the beginning of our new friendship. Conversations on the telephone and also meeting via ZOOM, even doing a carving session together, we found common interests.

Since our first meeting Doug has joined the TNCC (True North Caricature Carvers) ZOOM meetings and also now has a membership with our OWCA - even though he lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Doug is involved in the organizing committee for the Prairie Canada Carvers Association, which is an active organization that has been growing strong since 1987 from what I have read.

As some of you know I have Prairie Roots. I was born and raised in Saskatchewan. I began my carving experiences in Regina and the south in a small community/area of Truax. In more recent years after being far away I went back to live in Regina where I was engaged with a number of Wood Carvers.

Like all wood carvers, our meetings were times of sharing. During that time I found out Doug and I shared for a short time, another part of our lives. We both had attended the University of Manitoba.

Our conversations and interactions underscored an idea that I have been thinking long and hard about over these past years of being an Ontario resident and serving as the President of the Ontario Wood Carving Association. A number of connections I have had now, with the advantage of multiple Social Media/Internet connections possible now, I believe that a National Wood Carving Organization is possible.

A few years back now a few of our Ontario Wood Carvers had made a connection with carvers in British Columbia. They reported that they had entered an OnLine carving competition and won awards. I had reported that in our Magazine. When our TNCC folk, Mark Sheridan and John Andre, talked about a competition OnLine for the TNCC carvers, it all fit. A new idea was setting in and OnLine Shows are now a possibility.

Preparing for this article, I did a search for Wood Carvers in British Columbia. WOW! Google filled my screen with many links to many carvers and carving groups.

Why would you or I have an interest in carving groups so far away? Well, believe it or not, there are young carvers in the OWCA (not retired like many of our members are) that may travel or even move to different parts of Canada.

This could be very true for even the old carvers if the Politics of the USA gets any more extreme. "Going South" may be replaced by "Going West" to a warmer place like Vancouver Island. But there is snow in Vancouver sometimes you say? Yes - and did you notice that Florida and the South had snow too?

* * * * *

Back to the Prairie Canada Carvers Association (PCCA)

Doug's Press Release....

Once again, Prairie Canada Carvers Association's (PCCA) annual show and competition proved to be an outstanding event.

Some of the highlights of this event include:

- a 45% increase in the number of carvings (218 vs 150) which were provided by 53% more carvers (75 vs 49);
- a doubling in the number of workshops (10 vs 5) including sessions for the young and novice carver to the experienced hand carver and power carver; and
- a modest increase in the attendance by the public (approximately (500 vs 478).

The community participation events such as "Under the Sea" (provide a four-inch-high caricature or realistic carving emphasizing the sea); and the cocktail auction (provide a carving that fits into a cocktail glass) were also well received and entertaining. Most importantly, PCCA

thanks all of its sponsors; volunteers and local clubs that helped make this event successful. Stay tuned for next year's event which will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, during May of 2025.

[Gallery – Prairie Canada Carvers Association Inc](#)

SASKATCHEWAN CARVERS

There are two main carving groups or clubs in Saskatchewan. One is in Regina <https://www.reginawoodcarvers.ca/> and the other in Saskatoon (not sure of their Website presence, possibly the Guild?). Both groups are active but not the same. It is much like any area you will go to, there are two kinds of carvers. Like John Poole, a famous older carver, used to say, "There are Bird Carvers and the Other Carvers.". However I have edited his words here, instead of "Other Carvers", John would say with his strong British accent, "Real Carvers!" (...ahem... sorry WildLife and Bird carvers.)

Speaking with Doug Fyfe about this he underscored that thought as well. The Saskatoon Carvers are more closely connected to the Prairie Canada Carvers Association as there are many Bird and Wildlife Carvers living there. Plus Saskatoon has Competitions with their Shows and Regina doesn't. Regina has Shows without the Competition.



A very good friend of mine, Tim Caswell, is a carver and one of the folk involved with the Regina Wood Carvers - <https://www.reginawoodcarvers.ca/>. Tim shared with me that his fellow carvers have special days where the public is invited to come and view what the Regina Carvers have accomplished and are working on. In this setting sales are possible and connections made with the public. It is about reaching out, not just meeting with carvers, which is good, but doesn't help grow the carving world.

I can brag about Tim in many ways as he has become a great carver and teacher. He started carving with me in my Shop when I lived and worked in Regina. Our time together in my Shop grew to have about 27 carvers meeting each Thursday evening. In a Show and Competition that we entered, Tim entered his carving and won, beating his teacher's carving - Me!

When I sold my home and moved to Peterborough, Ontario, Tim built a garage with a Shop in it, and the carvers moved to his Shop. Some of these carvers are now part of the Regina Wood Carvers group.

Example Images from Regina's Carving Show





New Brunswick Woodcarving Association - NBWA

The information I had received in the past, New New Brunswick Woodcarving Association holds their Competition and Sale at St. Andrews New Brunswick. Check their Website for details.

Saint Andrews is a town in Charlotte County, New Brunswick, Canada. The historic town is a national historic site of Canada, bearing many characteristics of a typical 18th century British colonial settlement, including the original grid layout with its market square, and the classical architecture. One of the beautiful places in New Brunswick.

The NBWA has held their wood carving event in July. For Ontario Carvers that might be travelling for their vacation time next summer, what a wonderful place for Carvers to visit

Example images from their Website <https://nbcarving.ca/>



Brook Trout
2nd Best in Show - Advanced
Chris Bringleo



My Dogs
2nd Best in Show- Youth
Jenna Duchesheu



Caleb Brett
Whale

