

Rare find will be one of many highlights at Wood Fair

By MARGARET CALDRICK
Special to *The News*

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, notice is herby given to all loggers, foresters, artisans, sawmill operators, wood processors, landowners and interested members of the public: The second annual Glengarry Wood Fair and Auction takes place Saturday, August 21, at the Glengarry Pioneer Museum in Dunvegan.

This year's event will be even bigger and better than last year's, say organizers, with a circus-sized tent to house the wood auction and other sturdy tents for the wood artisan and trade fair exhibits, on-site workshops and kids activities.

"We had to make sure that we don't get blindsided by bad weather like we were last year," says Wood Fair executive committee member, Robin Flockton, a woodworker and turner from Apple Hill, who came up with the idea of a wood fair for the Pioneer Museum in 2008.

Some readers may recall hearing about last year's wood fair, and those who attended will certainly never forget it. More than 1,000 people showed up despite the summer's single worst weather day, a torrential downpour with gale force winds that blew away the event's smaller tents before the gates even opened. The 83-lot wood auction took place in driving rain, with wet but cheerful bidders and gawkers huddling under umbrellas. Despite this, the event was a "stunning success"; so successful that organizers were caught off guard.

"We advised the Dunvegan Recreation Association, who were doing the food, to plan for 350-550 people," recalls Mr. Flockton, "and we only had two kegs of Beau's beer." As it turned out, even though the bar in the museum's historic Star Inn opened at 1 p.m., everything was gone by 3:30 pm.

"You'd be amazed – people will travel a long way for a wood fair," added Mr. Flockton, who was struck by the large number of people who came from Quebec last year. Others travelled from Toronto, Kingston and Ottawa.

This year, the wood fair's executive committee is leaving nothing to chance. Based on what they

learned about how many people planned to attend last year, but didn't because of the weather, the committee now understands that last year's number could have easily been double.

This year, the number of artisans has jumped to 40, and 10 trade exhibitors have already signed on. Also, organizers recently announced that the Valley Woodturners of Ottawa will hold their annual outing and picnic at Wood Fair, with workshops for members in the Dunvegan Recreation Association Hall.

What else is new for this year's wood fair? The wood auction, starting at 1 p.m. sharp, promises to be even more spirited than last year, featuring 100 lots – up from 83 last year – and will be held under a large tent as mentioned above.

Last year, volunteer auctioneer Johnny MacCaskill, who hasn't confirmed yet but may be back again this August, kept the crowd laughing and on their toes as he and the auction's coordinator and log scaler, Jim Hendry from the Research Stewardship Council of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, moved from lot to lot. Mr. Hendry, a certified forester, is back this year to do all the log scaling and to organize the auction assisted by George Velema, president of the SD&G Resource Stewardship Council.

There will be a number of demos throughout the day, from timber framing to chainsaw carving, and workshops, two in English and one in French, presented onsite.

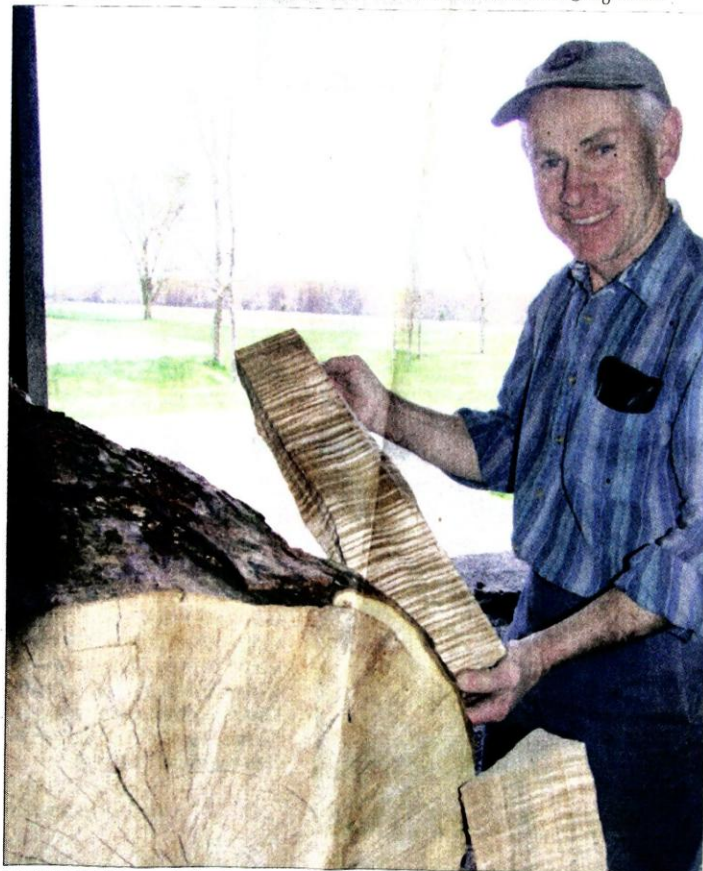
Children's activities this year will be presented by Sue Durocher of Williamstown. People may remember Ms. Durocher as the entertaining and knowledgeable interpreter at the now closed Domtar Forestry Centre in Apple Hill.

There will be no shortage of food and spirits at this year's Wood Fair, and that's a promise, say organizers who are planning to accommodate up to 2,000 attendees.

The Glengarry Wood Fair and Auction is sponsored by the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Certified Forest Owners, the Glengarry Pioneer Museum and the Resource Stewardship Council of SD&G.

For information about The Glengarry Wood

Fair & Auction or to register as a vendor in the wood auction or as an exhibitor, visit www.woodfair.ca or call Robin Flockton at (613) 525-2483, or email rflockton@hughes.net.



TIGER MAPLE: Here is Charles McDonald of North Lancaster with his amazing and rare find. When an 80-year-old red maple in his woodlot was grazed by lightning four years ago, it went into decline. This winter, Mr. McDonald and his brother Kenny cut the big tree down. But when they tried to split a section of log, they ran into difficulty – it wouldn't split true. This was because what they had was a rare Tiger Maple, also known as Curly Maple, Flame Maple, or Tiger Stripe Maple. Mr. McDonald is seen here with two blocks from the tree and the 10-foot log he will be sawing for inclusion in the second annual Glengarry Wood Fair & Auction to be held this August at the Glengarry Pioneer Museum in Dunvegan.

MARGARET CALDRICK PHOTO