

Mississauga Arts Award winner

Writer is skilled at her craft

By CHARLOTTE BROWN
Special

Mississauga resident Gail Crawford's skill at her craft has paid off.

Congratulations are in order because Crawford has picked up the 1999 Mississauga Arts Council (MAC) Award for Literature.

Crawford is a craft journalist and one of 10 winners in categories ranging from literature and music, to theatre and dance.

Her book, *A Fine Line: Studio Crafts in Ontario, 1930 to Present*, is just one reason why Crawford has been so honored.

The book required time-consuming and extensive archival and other research, travel, taped interviews, and the acquisition of photographic material.

And that was all before Crawford had to put it into a readable format.

So why did she do it? Crawford

has had a passion for crafts for 40 years.

The writer is an avid collector of crafts, and can be found picking her way through craft sales, shows and exhibitions.

The idea for this book took hold in 1992, and it took many years for the Meadow Wood Rd. resident to research, write, and finally, publish the work.

The elegant picture book, is a great read, as well as a reference book for museums, galleries, craft specialists, curators, collectors, educators, and especially for future generations of students who hope to pursue crafts at a professional level.

"I'm at a loss for words, really. This is the first time that I have been recognized for my writing, which is non-fiction," said Crawford last week.

The writer was packing her bags for yet another research trip which began this week.

"This is a time when culture has been cut-back on. I was delighted," said Crawford.

The awards will be handed out at a gala held April 22 at the Living Arts Centre (LAC).

Crawford is a history specialist and has worked professionally in broadcasting with the CBC and BBC in Canada and overseas.

Her second book, *A Fine Line: Studio Pottery in Canada 1920 to Present* should be ready to hit the bookstore shelves in 2001.

Currently, Crawford also writes freelance reviews, profiles and articles for craft-related publications.



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