

# Giving walls some relief

**CSI: Edmonton**



**Jerold LeBlanc**

Consumer Services and  
Information Bureau

"I've gotten a lot of job prospects."

The larger than life, three-dimensional wall reliefs are handmade by Ursuliak along with help from her husband Dave, who has his own commercial and residential painting business. Ursuliak can reproduce a photo or create her own image.

"I just want to do anything that makes your wall pop and say 'Wow' - above the ordinary type of thing."

Ursuliak, who has taken an eight-week painting course, as well as painting classes in high school, hit upon the idea about three years ago. Starting out with commercial painting, she progressed to murals and faux finishes.

"With the faux finishes, you can use stencils, but instead of putting the paint through the stencils, I started putting mud through the stencils, and building them up."

## Safe plaster

Taking the concept further, and drawing upon inspiration from Italian building design, Ursuliak built a bas-relief onto her fireplace at home, depicting a woman pouring water out of a jug. Unlike true bas-relief pieces where stone is chiselled, Ursuliak uses a special environmentally safe plaster.

While some pieces can take as little as eight hours to complete, others can take days, says Ursuliak.

Once the plaster hardens, which usually takes a day, Ursuliak can paint the relief, blending the color to match the wall's original paint.

As for the cost of the reliefs, Ursuliak says the prices are as individual as the works of art themselves. A Roman woman, on display at the show, was selling for \$2,000, while a giraffe had a \$1,200 price tag and a six-foot tree was selling for \$900.

**THIS CHAMPIONSHIP HAS CRUNCH!** Leduc and District Chamber of Commerce has gotten itself into a real pickle - and nothing could be finer.

In an effort to add a unique

**MAKE WALLS GO WOW:** A city entrepreneur is creating quite a buzz in local home decorating circles with her unique approach towards jazzing up walls.

Teresa Ursuliak, 39, of Interior Impressions, says she was overwhelmed by the response to her handmade wall reliefs at last month's Home and Garden Show at the AgriCom. (Reliefs are art in three-dimensional form standing out from a flat surface like a wall.)

"It was just phenomenal," says Ursuliak of the feedback she received, including comments from designers and showhome builders.

aspect to its Leduc and District Trade Show Showcase 2006, held April 22 and 23 at the Leduc Curling Club, the organization is holding the Alberta Pickle Championship.

Laura Reichert, the chamber's events and promotions co-ordinator, says credit for the idea goes to organizing committee member Barry Cook.

While other communities throughout Alberta have fairs, which incorporate contests involving canned produce, Reichert says Cook "was not aware of anyone who had an actual provincial event, so he thought this would be a good way to start out."

## Provincial pickle championship

For a mere \$10, those with a flair for homemade pickles can enter their best jar in one or all of the following categories: Dill pickles, sweet mixed pickles, beet pickles, onion pickles, bread & butter pickles, mustard pickles, carrot pickles or relish.

"Anybody who makes homemade pickles can enter their pickles and they will be judged and we'll come out with some champions," says Reichert.

Entry deadline is April 21, for the registration form and

fee only. For full contest rules and regulations, contact the Leduc and District Chamber of Commerce.

**CONSUMER QUIRK:** A disturbing trend has emerged among better restaurants in Edmonton, and it's not the old "waiter there's a fly in my soup" routine.

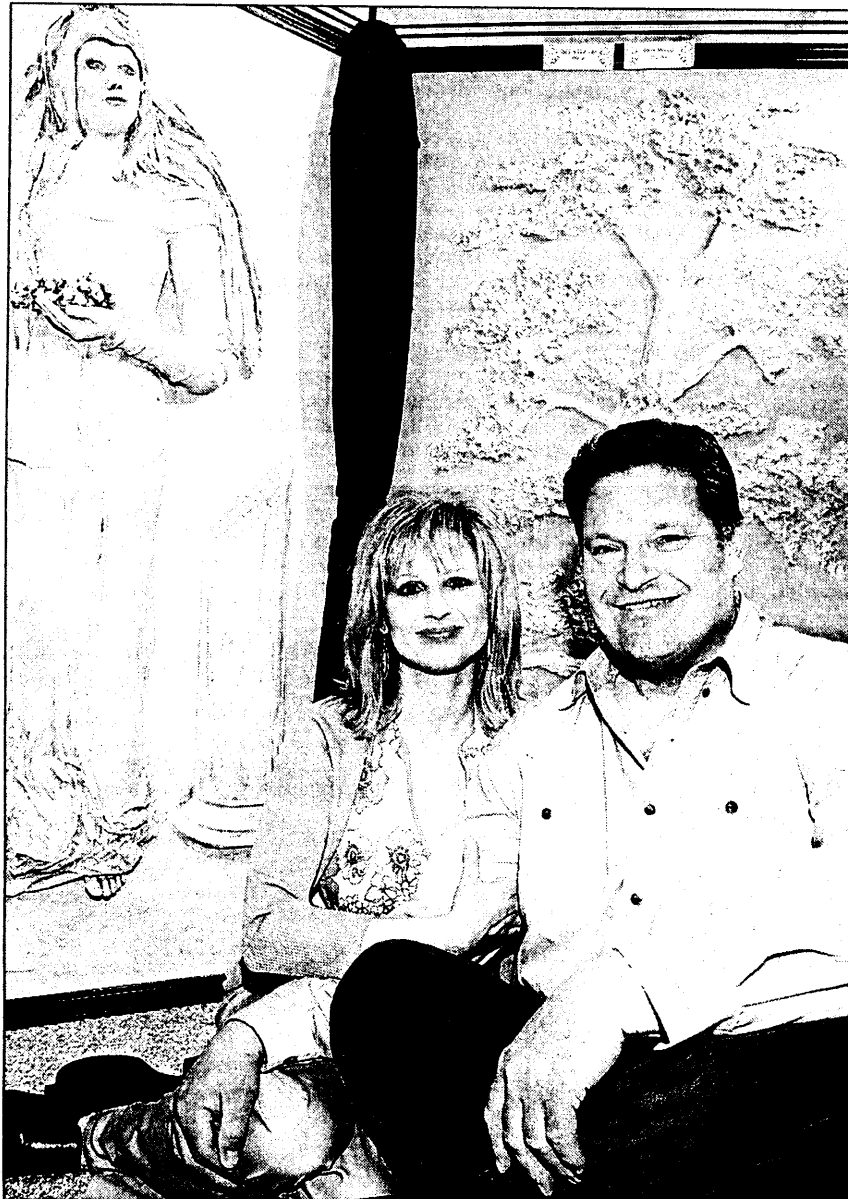
While some diners want to pay a few more dollars to ensure the table next to them is not eavesdropping on their private conversation, when did it become socially acceptable to drown out all background noise with ear-splitting music? And to compound the matter, why would management ignore a polite request by a patron to turn down the music?

## Tripping off security

Speaking of noise pollution, do you ever feel like a criminal when everyone in a store swivels in unison after an item you purchased trips the security sensors?

Some loudspeaker systems offer soothing reminders that the store forgot to remove the security tag, while others bark out a harsh demand that you return to the store - and the other customers stare at you as if you're a shoplifter.

- Questions, comments, ideas? Contact Jerold LeBlanc at [jleblanc@edmsun.com](mailto:jleblanc@edmsun.com)



- PRESTON BROWNSCHLAIGLE, Sun Media

**Teresa Ursuliak of Interior Impressions, along with husband Dave, impressed people at last month's Home and Garden Show with displays of her handmade wall reliefs.**