

Olde Worlde Canterbury Village hosts 5th annual Winter Carnival

Michigan's winter just took a turn for the better out Lake Orion way. If you want a well-deserved respite during this long bleak stretch between January and spring, you'll find it at the Olde World Canterbury Village's fourth annual Winter Carnival. Feb. 13-22. It's all part and parcel of the communitywide activities taking place that week during the Lake Orion area's annual winter celebrations.

"Canterbury Village is a special fairy-tale setting, and it will be filled with detailed, fairy-tale themed ice carvings.

"Professional ice carvers will be working hard to impress you with the very best of their transitory craftsmanship. This year it's all for a worthy cause, the Michigan Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"The Winter Carnival here has been growing and each year it just keeps getting better," said

Stan Aldridge, who developed the 21-acre Canterbury Village site on Joslyn Road. "We expect to have between 30 and 40 ice sculptures on display here."

Aldridge's idea of a Winter Carnival was shaped by the winter frolics in Quebec, Canada. "When my kids played hockey, we had to travel there often," he said. "They have some fabulous winter events up there and I'd like to capture some of that same enjoyment of life here."

That's not hard to do at the Canterbury Village site, which is in itself a most unique setting for shopping and dining. In addition to three major tents, each with its own specific fairy tale ice-carving theme for viewing, and three spectacular Wishing

Wells, the King's Court Castle Restaurant and all of the Village shops and boutiques will provide warm welcomes to browsing visitors.

Visitors can make a contribution to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan at the Wishing Well of their choice — and the ice carver who worked on the the Wishing Well which raises the most donations will receive a trophy.

Olde World Canterbury Village is the perfect place to view the professionally hand-carved ice sculptures, and the annual Winter Carnival has been attracting a growing crowd each year. Last season, almost 50,000 attended.

Historic, and artistic attractions

That castle-like development which dominates the landscape on Joslyn Road, just a short stretch up from I-75, is every bit as impressive as it looks as you whiz by. It's worth a stop.

Designated a historical location by the state of Michigan, Olde World Canterbury Village is more than an eclectic collection of unique shops, boutiques and dining pleasures. The development has come alive from what was once known as Wildwood Farm, owned by publishing Magnate William E. Scripps and dates back past the turn of the last century.

The look and feel of the nouveau-style old world castle's

charms are quite real, however. Contained within its reconstructions are many art and architectural treasures, from antique leaded-glass windows, doors, panelings and even accent wood-carvings from a 16th century English castle. Around the grounds are a beautiful imported Italian street lamps, a 19th century reproduction German carousel and matching children's ferris wheel and train, which operate seasonally.

While shopping in the Canterbury Store, you're surrounded by wood paneling gleaned from the original and historic Lloyds of London offices. In the Toy Store is a unique Tiffany Wisteria etched glass window, originally created for a church in Cincinnati nearly 100 years ago. If you like your treasures closer to home, the magnificent 1924 chandelier from the Michigan Theater in Detroit still casts its glow in the King's Court Castle Restaurant.

Developer Stan Aldridge has mixed in his own personal collection of intricate models of world class ocean vessels, as well, all artfully displayed on antique European tables. He maintains many contacts with collectors around the world.

"We keep current with what's available on the market, and I have many items yet in storage which will make great additions. Right now I'm looking for a place to put in an entire room, preserved from the magnificent old ocean liner Mauritania," Aldridge said.

It's the kind of atmosphere that lends a distinct world-class touch to the old Wildwood Farm. Multi-millionaire Scripps would still feel quite at home.



The icemen cometh

Gary Elzerman

A native of Lake Orion, Elzerman, 31, has helped plan and organize the Olde World Canterbury Village Winter Carnival for the past five years. At the first Winter Carnival, Elzerman started with 13 blocks of ice to create Canterbury's first Ice Castle. This year's castle will consist of 160 blocks of ice and weigh about 30 tons. Elzerman has competed at the professional level for seven years and has won many awards. In addition to ice carvings, Elzerman is becoming well-known for his creative wood sculptures, and especially for his collection of bear carvings. He travels to clients' homes and can carve just about anything a client desires. Elzerman can also be seen carving his sculptures at Olde World Canterbury Village, spring through fall seasons.

J.R. Lorentz

J.R. Lorentz of Garden City is a 1995 graduate of Henry Ford Community College, where he earned his associate of Science Degree in Culinary Arts. Henry Ford Community College is where Lorentz first learned ice sculpting. While attending, he was president of Henry Ford Community College's Ice Carving Club. Upon graduation, Lorentz fulfilled his dream of carving for a living, and opened his business, J.R.'s Ice Sculptures, a full service company that supplies ice sculptures, ice punchbowl, and carving blocks in the tri-county area. His studio is located in downtown Plymouth. As an active member of the National Ice Carving Association, Lorentz has participated in several ice carving competitions and festivals. Some of the ice festivals he is involved with include: Plymouth Ice Spectacular, Zehnder's Snow Fest, Canterbury Village, Milford and Royal Oak just to name a few. Lorentz has been very successful in ice carving competitions. In 1997 Lorentz won first place at the "Great Lakes Ice Carving Competition", Syscos "taking it to the Ice", and The Michigan Restaurant Association's Ice Carving Competition. Lorentz has also placed in the top three at several competitions nationwide. Lorentz has traveled across the United States demonstrating the art of ice sculpting and his ultimate dream is to compete in the 2002 Winter Olympics Ice Sculptures Competition.

Matthew B. Cooper

Matthew B. Cooper, a native of Fenton, has been an ice carver for 15 years and competitive as a professional for six years. Matthew has been competitive in numerous events like the Plymouth International Ice Spectacular where his team took first place. He has also competed in Fairbanks Alaska in the U.S. Olympic Tryouts. Matthew has previously placed in the top five in several area competitions. Matthew is a member of the National Ice Carvers Association and the American Culinary Federation.

WINTER CARNIVAL SPECIALS

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A Festival of Ice

Canterbury Village filled with fairy tales and wishing wells

Chef turned carver makes art from ice

That centerpiece carving of a castle in ice at the Olde World Canterbury Village Winter Carnival keeps getting more intricate, more detailed and bigger each year.

It's a perfect match for some of the dreams of its creator, Gary Elzerman.

The 31-year-old Lake Orion native has gone from chef to ice carver extraordinaire, and now has branched out to carve some of his larger-than-life creations in wood. His creations are popular items outside of local businesses, so much so that Gary has given up his cooking to do his carvings full-time.

"The hours are a lot better," he said, grinning.

Ice carving is a specialized facet of food preparation, he points out as he explains how he got into the field. "The chef is responsible not only for the food, but its presentation and eye-appeal, as well. When you think about it, there's a great deal of 'shaping' involved in being a chef — from arranging vegetables and colors, to molding pate's and even chocolate. It's a beautiful form of art and I found out I had an artistic outlook."

Elzerman comes by his cooking interest from a restaurant back-



Ice is nice: Chef and entrepreneur and ice carver Gary Elzerman is heading up the ice carving for the coming weeks winter carnival at Olde World Canterbury Village.

ground. His mom and dad owned the Polish Princess restaurant in the Lake Orion area for many years. He still lends a hand now and then helping his dad, who now operates Preferred Catering.

And Elzerman did his very first ice carvings while still a student chef.

"It was an eagle atop a globe, sort of like the Marine Corps emblem," he said, adding, "it was a bit rough, but I think I got a 'B' (grade) for it in the class. It fascinated me though, and I guess I

had the right outlook."

One of his most intricate and detailed works was a life-size Harley-Davidson motorcycle in ice, done at the Plymouth Ice Spectacular three years ago. "It was a crowd-pleaser, and I still have pictures of it," he said.

Ice carving may not produce long-lasting works of beauty (especially in Michigan's changeable weather), but Elzerman loves the artistry involved and is setting his sights high.

Are there any top shows or hopes he'd like to try?

"Well, Fairbanks, Alaska has the largest and most prestigious ice-carving show in North America — and ice carving will gain world-wide recognition at this year's winter Olympics, for the first time as a Medalist sport," he says. "I'd like to try for the U.S. team."

Elzerman is married. He and wife, Paula, have a son, Connor. If you have a dream you'd like to see carved in ice or wood, he can be reached at (248) 814-0395.

Carnival to aid terminally-ill children

Wishing Well to benefit Make-a-Wish

Everybody knows what happens when you toss a coin into a Wishing Well. During Olde World Canterbury Village's Winter Carnival, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan will use your Wishing Well donations to make a dream come true for some deserving youngster.

The Michigan group is one of 80 state and regional affiliates, who exist to fulfill the personal wishes of any child ages 2-17 to 17 who suffers from a life-threatening illness.

Those wishes are diverse: a battery-powered vehicle for a 4-year-old child who lost the use of his legs from cancer; tickets for a Detroit Tigers baseball game for an 8-year-old with leukemia; travel and expenses for a little girl with cancer to go to Arizona to see Grandma and Grandpa one last time.

It's the kind of diversity for which the Wishing Wells must overflow with your donations. Consider this, as you give:

■ Since 1985, 158 children's wishes have been fulfilled in Oakland County.

■ To date, more than 1,700 wishes have been granted in Michigan.

■ All wish requests are considered without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, financial status or religious preference.

■ The average cost of a wish is \$4,500.

■ Parents, legal guardians, doctors or social workers may refer a child for a wish.

■ A volunteer organization, Make-A-Wish of Michigan has a staff of full-time employees to run daily operations.

■ More than 85% of all money donated to Make-A-Wish goes to granting wishes.

■ More than 300 active volunteers in Michigan help Make-A-Wish dreams come true.

■ The group does absolutely no telephone or door-to-door soliciting. All funds come through private donations from corporations, groups, and individuals, as well as fund-raisers, such as this event.

■ If you are interested in referring a child, donating funds, or volunteering your time or services, please call (800) 622-WISH.