

# BRAMPTON GUARDIAN



## Sculptor put on a show

By PAM DOUGLAS  
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Tree sculptor Robbin Wenzoski turned a 500 pound soft maple tree trunk into a beautiful bouquet of roses and tulips in Ken Whillans Square this morning.

It's what the City of Brampton hopes is the first in a series of tree carvings that will create a public art attraction in the downtown core, and throughout the city.

The first carving has been sponsored by the Brampton Downtown Development Corporation (BDDC). Wenzoski's carvings are part of an art walk tour in the City of London (14 of the 16 carvings are his), and four in the Town of Orangeville.

"I have carvings all over Ontario, out on the west coast, I have a couple down in the U.S. now, and I even have two in Germany," he said during a break in carving this morning in Brampton.

He first tried carving about six years ago, and a year later, he picked up a chainsaw.

"I never intended to be a chainsaw sculptor, it just went that way," he said.

Originally British Columbia, he now lives in southwestern Ontario. Many of his carvings are inspired by nature, and he says inspiration plays a role in his art. He also enjoys carving in public when he is invited to.

"It's an adventure every day and meeting new people."

He has also been commissioned to carve an old Elm tree for a Brampton school in two weeks, he said.

He said there is a difference between a tree carver and a tree sculptor.

"I'm removing the course tool marks," he explained. "Once you go beyond that to the detail of sanding... the detail that you can go to, it just blows you away."

Although the trees he sculpts are no longer green, chainsaw sculpting is actually a very green thing to do, he said.

"This is environmentally sound. All these old growth tree trunks that are coming down all over Ontario, especially with the storms we're having now, they're too big to chip up, or cut up for firewood and the sawmills can't cut the. A lot of them end up in the landfill creating methane gas. So, this gives them a second life."

He said he's been told big cities hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to dispose of old tree trunks.

"A lot of them could be carved, sculpted, cheaper than actually disposing of them," he said.

He also uses canola oil in his chainsaws.

"It's a hundred times better than any petroleum chain oil. And, the sawdust is biodegradable. It's not full of carcinogenic oil, so it's good all around."

He teaches his art in Haliburton, from beginners to advanced. He has a beginners course starting at the end of August for three days and a one week advanced course in October.

"I've been teaching for four years now. I love to teach."

He also offers private lessons in his studio.

"I teach all the little tidbits of information you need to be able to go out and create something... When I teach courses in my studio, everything is supplied. All you have to do is come with an open mind and just give 'er," he laughed. "Because as soon as you just give her, you're on the right side of the brain. There's no left side saying, 'Oh I can't do that'."

To see his work, visit [www.robbinsamazingart.com](http://www.robbinsamazingart.com).



Robbin Wenzoski.

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