

# Lendrum's Pottery Group

Did you know that a pottery group runs out of the north end of the Lendrum Community Hall? Here is a brief history of the group. To view their work, check out one of their two annual sales. For more information about the pottery group, contact Joy Schlaut at 780-434-1997.

**January 1970** marked the beginning of the Lendrum Pottery Group. Instructor Pat Galbraith obtained a grant to cover the groups' costs. Community League members gathered in the changeroom of the Lendrum Hall to learn pottery.

Working on their laps with cloth covered plywood and rolling pins from home, instruction began with simple hand building techniques and progressed over time.

A kiln for clay firing was available at the Duggan Health Centre. The group was able to use the kiln with the understanding that they would accept Health Centre clients as members when requested.

Back at Community League Hall, the bisqued pieces were painted with purchased low fire glazes and were taken back to Health Centre for repeat firing procedure. This routine carried on for two years.

In **1972** the Pottery Group bought its first kiln, which was housed in the main room of the Community Hall. This kiln was capable of medium temperature firing making it safe for cookware. There was no instructor so members used books for inspiration and guidance. Over the years the Group brought in paid renowned Edmonton potters such as Linda Buhlman, Betty Schultz, Peggy Heer and Jackie Lemieux for instruction.

In **1973** we purchased our first wheel built by Edmontonian Chuck Bryan (this wheel is still in use today). At this time there were 3 change rooms in the Hall. The central large change room became the first designated pottery room. It was also in 1973 that the group started to make their own glazes.

From **1976-1978**, Betty Anne Stromsmoe ran pottery classes for children. The Community League helped the Pottery Group out at this time by constructing a small, enclosed space for the kiln and had three well designed cupboards built to hold pottery pieces.

In **1985** the Pottery Group bought their 2nd kiln.

During **1992 and 1993** the Community Hall underwent renovations. The Pottery Group moved to its present location on the north side of the building, which had previously been a second change room. During the renovation our kiln was damaged. The Group purchased our 3rd kiln in **March 1993**.

In **1995**, the Pottery Group bought its 2nd wheel (still in use). It is completely automated, which allows people with disabilities to throw on a wheel.

In **1996**, the Pottery Group purchased an extruder (still in use). In **1998**, the Pottery Group bought a slab roller (still in use)

In **1999**, the Pottery Group performed its first Raku firing with a homemade gas kiln. Glazes have a metallic look and these pieces are strictly decorative. At this time the shed was built and the Pottery Group was given much needed space to store its Raku equipment and pottery sale signs. This was also the year of our first large pottery sale in the Community Hall. Since the inaugural sale, the group has held two sales a year.

In **2011**, the Pottery Group bought its 4th kiln.

## Pottery Group Today

Our membership currently sits at 10 to 12 persons with preference given to Lendrum Community members and existing Pottery Group members.

Over the years the Lendrum Pottery Group has been self-sufficient - having public pottery sales, and charging registration fees and clay costs to members. We have purchased all our equipment and pay for our own repairs and supplies. Since 1972 we have paid \$10 per kiln load to the Community League and since 1993 we have shared 10% of our registration fees with the League.

On behalf of the Lendrum Pottery Group we would like to say thank you to Lendrum Community and its League executives over the years for giving us their support and space to pot.

*Betty Anne Stromsmoe, Founding Member, 1970 Lendrum*

*Janet Janke, member since 1987, Parkallen*

*Joy Schlaut, member since January 1997, Lendrum*