

Products and services

Hand-crafted guitars

Marc Beneteau of Gloucester, Ontario, works slowly and carefully in his climate-controlled workshop creating unique hand-crafted guitars, considered by some to be among the best in the world.

Art MacGregor, owner of the Ottawa Folklore Centre, the exclusive retailer of Beneteau guitars in the Ottawa region, said that Marc Beneteau's guitars sound more balanced than most assembly-line models because of the care put into their construction.

Mr. Beneteau explained that the sound of an acoustic guitar depends on the shape and size of its body but its resonance is a factor of its individual nature. "Because every piece of wood is different, every guitar will sound a little different," he said.

The guitars are built, one at a time, from various woods and other materials that Mr. Beneteau selects carefully to ensure there are no flaws.

Each of the basic materials — Indian rosewood and ebony, South American mahogany, strips of Canadian spruce and bone — is crafted and handled in a special manner. The spruce is curled like hot glass around a rough form; the ebony is filed with



Marc Beneteau makes his own bindings for his individually crafted guitars.

a jewelry saw, and the mahogany is slowly polished until it resembles liquid honey.

One of Mr. Beneteau's hallmarks is a delicate etching of abalone shell and mother-of-pearl set into the neck of the guitar.

Yukon parka warms the world



Leslie Grant (left) and Wendy Webber display a Yukon parka and leather mitts, two products available from the Yukon Indian Arts and Crafts Co-operative Limited, based in Whitehorse in the Yukon. The Yukon parka, which is an outer and inner zippered coat made to be worn together or separately, accounts for about one half of the co-op's sales. About 4 000 parkas were sold last year to residents and tourists in Whitehorse and across Canada, but with the recent opening of a joint venture retail store in Anchorage, Alaska, sales are expected to increase by 50 per cent in the US market. The co-op also sells several varieties of hand-sewn beaded slippers, mukluks, mitts, gauntlets, fur hats and beaded jewelry.

Odour-free papermaking

Scientists at the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada's main laboratories in Pointe Claire, Quebec have built the prototype of a sensor that controls the strong smell of paper mills.

The device controls the airflow in the kraft pulping process, which is the predominant method of producing paper.

In this process, wood fibres are freed by a sodium sulphide solution to produce a chemical solution called black liquor. This is burned to recover chemicals and other byproducts, but the burning can also produce noxious odours.

Monitoring sulphides

The sensor works by "monitoring continually the low-level sulphides in the liquor", said Richard Mortimer, one of its developers.

The device produces an electrical signal that varies with the degree of oxidation of the liquor and is used for feedback to an automatic control unit. The control unit regulates the air blower feeding the oxidation process.

Manufacturing and marketing rights have been given to Southwell Controls of Vancouver, British Columbia.