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# THE MISSISSAUGA **Times**

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Muriel Shaw and CNE winnings: the best is yet to come

## Muriel, 91, laces the 'young ones'

By ALANA PERKINS  
Times staff writer

Ninety-one-year-old Muriel Shaw is not ready to enter the senior citizens' handcraft category at the Canadian National Exhibition — she prefers "to challenge the young ones."

Formerly a school teacher in England and a resident of Port Credit for 43 years, Mrs. Shaw has been entering her needlework and lace in the general class competition for 13 years.

Mrs. Shaw was awarded six ribbons this year, placing second for a self-designed embroidered picture, a crewel wall-hanging, and in two categories of men's knitted socks while winning third prize for her handmade lace handkerchief and embroidered wall-hanging.

"Competition's pretty keen," said Mrs. Shaw, who was one of 3,000 entries in 156 categories, "and as old as I am, I hope to do a masterpiece one day. The trick is to never give up and do a little better every year. My motto is the best is yet to come."

Mrs. Shaw counts herself lucky to have good eyesight because knitting lace her unique way requires the delicate manipulation of two hat pins and fine thread.

At 12 years old, Mrs. Shaw was taught by her mother how to make lace and knit, and can remember doing crafts beneath her school desk when the lesson got boring. After growing up and teaching school as a young bride, Mrs. Shaw commissioned a pupil's mother for embroidery lessons. After many years of correspondence, Mrs. Shaw was proud to learn that her old friend and instructor had been asked to embroider Prince Charles' saddlecloth and garters for the Queen's 25th anniversary.

As fond as she is of making crafts, Mrs. Shaw is always concerned "not to waste much time at it and get one-sided."

Summers, which she spends with daughter Joan Hope on Ben Machree Dr., find her picking strawberries and making jam, or trying her hand in the kitchen, preparing old English recipes like Yorkshire cheesecakes. During the winter months Mrs. Shaw stays in California with her second daughter and looks forward to playing the nickel slot machines in Las Vegas. Mrs. Shaw has one son, Philip, a cabinetmaker who helped construct the chapel in the Mississauga Hospital.

"I'll always be busy," said the spry spirit, "because I don't stop and dwell on being old. I hate being with old people, they're forever saying 'Let me tell you all about my operation'. Well, that's gruesome. I want to live."

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