

meet

LOCAL CRAFTSMAN

dave weatherlow



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he relates stories, one of his favorites is obviously the customer who comes back to him every few years to rework an old chair. This isn't an heirloom, but just a family piece that's filled with love and memories. Dave always tells them the repair won't last, but does the repairs as thoroughly as though it was a priceless heirloom, to a piece the owners just can't bear to part with.

He's also skilled in reproducing the intricate trim details you see in some of the historic Georgian, Federalist and Victorian style homes in the Lancaster area. These trim pieces are almost impossible to find, as both the knives and the patience to recreate them, are not widely available. More frequently than not, there's too much damage, and the

The funny thing about craftsmen is that they almost always seem to be truly unique and Dave Weatherlow is no exception. This quiet, unassuming man, with long hair and a Harley Davidson, is definitely a free spirit, but however you describe him, "craftsman" is how you define him.

Dave spent his early working years learning the cabinetmaking trade with another tradesman, but then married and needed a steadier job. Dave's career with Armstrong began when he got a job in the design department where the elaborate showcases created to promote Armstrong's products were built. The ads that showcased those products would become instantly rec-

ognizable all over the country, and behind the scenes, Dave was working to create those sets.

After a long career there, Dave ended up in a forced retirement as many did, but Dave had a very marketable skill. He had learned how to craft almost anything, and he put that skill to the creation of classic and reproduction furniture, and his skills are obvious. He's created reproductions from photos from Williamsburg, from various museums, and magazine ads. But when





cost to repair or replace is too high, so the pieces are stripped and end up lost to the landfill.

Dave has made and donated several pieces to the museum in his hometown of Conestoga. Though he's technically retired, this soft-spoken man obviously gets great satisfaction from carving out his "one-of-a-kind" masterpieces. His contentment seems to come from knowing that these hand-wrought pieces will end up in someone's home where they will be truly loved and treasured. He explains in detail why

it's more expensive, but necessary to create these pieces from a single piece of wood: so all the colors and grains of the wood in the final piece match perfectly.

In a world that revolves around the mass production of just about everything, it's nice to be able to recognize a gifted tradesman—a field too seldom acknowledged in today's society. *Dave Weatherlow can be reached at 717.872.4544*

R&A

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