
Sharing SBLA Success Stories

South East Prairie Rural Development Co-operative

McNeil Oak Barrel Art

Dwaine McNeil, Owner

Dwaine McNeil resides with his family on an acreage near the small farming community of Redvers, Saskatchewan, located in the south eastern part of the province. In 1975, he started wood working as a hobby. In 1998, Dwaine relocated his shop, McNeil Cabinet Making, to Redvers to do wood working on a full-time basis. He became well known in the community and surrounding area for his fine craftsmanship and finishing. His pieces range from custom cabinets to restored antique furnishings.

Dwaine's newest business, McNeil Oak Barrel Art, creates original work and antique replica furnishings through a unique process he developed himself that uses staves from aged oak barrels. Once again, Dwaine has expanded his business by relocating two doors down the street into a building that is about three times the size, using the smaller shop for storage of inventory.

Dwaine has the Canadian distributorship for the very well known Original Bee's Wax Furniture Polish in aerosol cans. He is an importer of this product and has close to 200 dealers across

Canada that retail the product through their furniture stores or gift shops. Dwaine needed a good polish that would work well at his trade shows. This polish dries fast and leaves no fingerprints, among other advantages.



Dwaine is very thankful for the help he received from the South East Prairie Rural Development Co-operative Ltd. (now part of the Redvers District Development Corporation). "They helped me out many times over the last few years," said Dwaine, "whether it was to purchase needed tools or large orders of furniture polish. It has been a useful management tool."

The future of McNeil Oak Barrel Art is looking very promising. They are currently in the process of developing a market in the United States for his very unique products. By reusing old wood from oak barrels, there is no need to cut down trees!