

Shane Durnford

Custom signs and carvings in rural Ontario

It's been five years since Shane Durnford was first featured in *SignCraft* (July/August 1999). We discovered Shane's work when a visiting sign maker stopped by our office with a photo of a sign for Horseshoe Valley Trading Company featuring a remarkable bas-relief of a pheasant. While our visitor didn't know who made the sign, he knew it was the work of a carver in Creemore, Ontario, a small town about 60 miles north of Toronto.



Eventually, we got in touch with Shane and after a few phone conversations (visiting on the phone with Shane or his wife, Jackie, makes one think that packing up and moving closer to Creemore should be the next order

of business), a package of photos arrived at *SignCraft*. The photos—and an insightful interview—ran a short time later, and we've been hearing from readers ever since: "Those were some of the best carved signs I've ever seen," "When do we get to see more of Shane Durnford's work?" "Who was that guy in Canada with those great designs and carvings?" You get the idea.

Equally adept at the drawing board, carving bench, or with a set of bagpipes tucked under his arm, Shane continues to offer dimensional signs and graphic-design services to the residents of Creemore and the surrounding area. To see more of his work, you can visit his Web site at www.shanedurnford.com. •SC

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Hand-carved incised lettering on 4-by-23-ft. high-density urethane board with a gilded cove. The cow and chickens are shaped from 2-in. high-density urethane board mounted on standoffs.



20-by-36-in. high-density urethane beaver on birch sign panel



Tooth Fairy is 5-by-12-ft. high-density urethane board. The flat-cut metal letters have a black anodic finish and are mounted on standoffs. "We developed a complete imaging program starting with a logo, including ad work and signage," says Shane. "The local children have named her Flossy."



Hand-carved incised gilded lettering on 4-by-9-ft. high-density urethane board structure. The bronze letters are mounted on standoffs on a stone base. "It was great to have full reign over concept, design and fabrication," says Shane. "We designed the bases, which were built to our specs by a contractor affiliated with the site. We also subcontracted the copper cladding on the roof."



Hand-carved incised gilded lettering on 5-by-12-ft. high-density urethane board structure. The bronze letters are mounted on standoffs on a stone base. "This project was too large to assemble in our studio," says Shane, "so we drew it to actual size on the computer, fabricated it to computer measurements and assembled it on site."



Hand-carved incised painted lettering on 4-by-4-ft. high-density urethane board with gilded inline border. "The ironwork was made to our specs by my father, Larry, who has Durnford Ironworks," says Shane.



Hand-carved incised painted lettering on 40-by-50-in. high-density urethane board attached to cedar posts



Hand-carved incised gilded lettering on 3-by-4-ft. high-density urethane board. "The wrought-iron hanger was crafted to our specs and integral to the design," says Shane. "The logo we developed prominently featured the scales."



Hand-carved incised gilded 9 on 10-by-20-in. high-density urethane board



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Standoff-mounted aluminum flat-cut letters on 5-by-5-ft. high-density urethane board. The upper metal frame is concave and the bottom panel is pebble textured. The rings representing the water are mounted on standoffs at an angle. The heron is approximately 45 in. long and up to 10 in. thick.





Hand-carved incised gilded lettering
on 2-by-10-ft. redwood panel