

Original art on view at Wellspring open house

By Carol Baldwin

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Artistic licence has given Wellspring a different look, complete with a lush front garden and stairs leading up to the front door.

A woodcut of Wellspring was created by Oakville artist Naoko Matsubara while she was looking at the support centre for cancer patients and their families on a landscape-free construction site. Turns out her vision was a little different than the architect's, but then that's art.

And the framed woodcut of Wellspring, donated by the internationally-known artist, hangs above the reception desk in the newly constructed facility.

It all began with Mayor Ann Mulvale's 50th birthday celebration. One of Matsubara's woodcuts was on the mayor's wish list as was the completion of Wellspring, a facility that the long-time Oakville mayor has supported since its inception.

"They (Wellspring officials) wanted to thank her personally; so they approached me," explains Matsubara. "I had no idea what Wellspring was all about. So, I got some brochures and I started reading; and I thought it was a fantastic idea. I decided to make a print of this place and give Ann an artist's proof and give the rest of the edition to go on sale (with proceeds going to Wellspring)."

Matsubara says she visited the site many times, following the building's progression from a skeleton to a finished exterior. When she began the woodcut, the front door of the 10-room house was a few feet up from a dirt lot.

"I thought, with my artist's imagination, they were going to make lots of steps and flower beds. And I started to make the woodcut," Matsubara explains. "I already gave the print to Ann. Then I went to the opening (of Wellspring) and was shocked...I told them my (rendering) was different. And they said, 'Yours is better.'"

Now the woodcut artist, whose current project is creating a mural for the YMCA addition, refers to Wellspring as a new landmark in North Oakville with its welcoming porch at the front and artificial lake in the back.

"It has a great future. And so many people come here to help and to be helped," she says, adding that she hopes people will support the information centre by buying one of her 70-plus woodcut prints of Wellspring, priced at \$500 each, that she has donated. "It will remind them of someone they know who had cancer and has been helped or, with that print, they can remember someone who is already gone."

Wellspring is inviting the public to an open house tomorrow (Thursday), from 3 to 7:30 p.m., to view Matsubara's woodcut and all the other original art that is now hanging in the two-storey white house.

Joyce Kellock and her husband, Ed Boyer, both Oakville artists, were button-holed by Mulvale to solicit original

art work for Wellspring before the facility was even built. And now that its doors are open to the public, their work is done.

"We asked artists, and they were all very willing to donate something. There is a wonderful wallhanging or two, and one was donated in memory a volunteer's husband," says Kellock, adding that the interior decorators also selected some artwork to match the décor.

"The artists were absolutely wonderful," agrees Judi Perry Brinkert, executive director of Wellspring, adding that 18 paintings now hang in the large house at 2545 Sixth Line.

Although that may seem scant for a 10-room house, Brinkert explains that some of the walls were purposely left unadorned.

"We had to leave some wall space blank because we want to be putting up acknowledgements to people who have donated a lot of money to the centre. And we wanted to be able to expand our amount of information corkboards up on the walls, because a lot of what we do is provide information."

Along with the information, Wellspring currently offers 31 different programs to its over 320 members.

Wellspring is open Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with plans to open Saturdays when necessary.

For more information on the centre, its programs, tomorrow's open house, or the purchase of a Matsubara woodcut print, call 905-257-1988.



Photo by Brent Foster

Naoko Matsubara has donated one of two artist's proofs of Wellspring to Mayor Ann Mulvale and the second one to Wellspring itself (seen in the background). Wellspring, an organization that provides support for people with cancer and those who care for them, is inviting the public to see its framed woodcut, along with 17 other original works of art, at its open house tomorrow from 3 to 7:30 p.m. The paintings are hanging in the 10-room house at 2545 Sixth Line. Woodcut prints of Wellspring will be sold for \$500 each to raise money for the support centre.

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Pop art with a historical twist

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constructed scene. Wall stages a dramatic scene using real people for his photography. Adams, however, goes from a short story to an epic novel, and is currently working on a fantastical three-dimensional piece incorporating vehicles, toys and miniatures with detailed architectural and landscape elements as the base.

It's pop art with a historical twist.

The *Bruegel-Bosch Bus* (BBB) at Centennial is a work in progress and is named for two 16th-century artists whose life-and-death themes were set in dramatic panoramic landscapes. Like Bruegel and Bosch, Adams incorporates landscape into his reflections on the human condition and social issues. The BBB began four years ago, and Adams expects it to be another four years before it is finished.

Starting with a full-sized split open Volkswagen bus, Adams has filled it chaotically with miniature cities, railroads, amusement parks — complete with roller-coaster — factories with spewing chimneys, theatres, museums, and references to film and social movements like striking workers and peace talks by John Lennon.

A skeleton sporting sunglasses sits at the driving wheel and several more cascade down the side. King Kong pounds his chest on top of the Empire State building.

It is impossible to relate the hundreds of things going on in this master work. A viewer must take time to walk around the structure to discover them all. Take some children with you. They'll love it.

As the recipient of the York Wilson Gallery award, the *Bruegel-Bosch Bus* is now on loan as part of the Art Gallery of Hamilton collection. It is on display at Centennial Square, 120 Navy St., until August 12.