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Painting captures church's character

By Peggy Foster Dec. 4, 1992

The rich colors, architectural intricacies and religious symbols of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Walton Street have been captured in a painting commissioned by the church's board from a local artist.

Earlier this fall, Kathryn McHolm of Welcome was hired to do an original painting of the Romanesque-style church. The building was renovated recently under the direction of restoration architect Peter Stokes.

For several years McHolm's renditions of historically important local architecture have adorned books, book jackets, cards and posters. Most often the work has been pen-and-ink sketches depicting particular aspects of the exterior of a building.

Her latest work, in watercolors, picks up the colors found in the interior of the church.

"I'd never been inside this church before, and when I went in the first time I was surprised to find so much color in a church," McHolm said.

She has a particular love of windows and plants, and liked the use of floral shapes on the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary. The repetition of round-topped windows and the arches at the front of the church were aspects McHolm decided to use as the main architectural feature of the finished work, which she describes as a watercolor collage.

Bits and pieces of stained-glass flowers, fretwork in the balustrade along the balcony, and other parts of what McHolm calls the "innards" of the church appear in the painting.

"I have no explanation (for the painting)," she said. "It's something that happens when you think it out."

The church is holding a draw for the painting to raise money for the restoration fund. Tickets will be sold until Jan. 16, when the draw will take place at the church.

Artist Kathryn McHolm of Welcome holds the painting she completed recently showing the various architectural aspects of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Photo by Peggy Foster

Proper treatment can save storm-damaged trees, expert says

By Kathy Blair Dec. 12, 1992

Some of those badly leaning snowstorm-damaged trees can be saved, a local tree expert says.

"Possibly 60 per cent of the trees will come back if their tops are reduced," says Harold Wharram of Wharram Tree Service Inc.

The towns of Port Hope and Cobourg both have contracts with the company to care for their trees.

Every tree and every property is different, Wharram said. For example, "sugar maples won't come back again. They won't take severe punishment."

On the other hand, soft maples "probably will come back. An ash tree will come back really quickly."

Town-owned trees on boulevards were generally damaged they come up to get away from it." The soil then becomes weak and a tree can fall over more easily in a storm.

Many cedar trees were severely damaged in the storm, Wharram said.

Deciduous trees should be trimmed and the foliage reduced by up to a third, he said. That allows wind to pass through the tree rather than coming to a stop and blowing up against it.

Trimming also reduces the weight of the tree and permits it to collect less snow. Branches should be cut back to reduce possible damage.

"A large 36-inch tree of any species — the branches project 30 feet. You should cut the ends. It's just a lot of common sense."

But often when he makes such suggestions to people, much less severely than those on private property, Wharram said.

That ibecause his company trims and maintains town trees to ensure they will not be seriously damaged in the event of a storm such as the one last week, he added.

Coniferous trees should have their tops lowered, Wharram suggested, adding that homeowners often resist the idea.

"A tall tree with needles and cones — you should lower down the tops. But it sometimes takes the shape of the pyramid away. The top is so heavy with a small base" that it is ripe for storm damage, he said.

Conditions this year have made trees more delicate than usual, he added.

"It's been an extremely wet year. If the roots of the tree are not accustomed to moisture, "they think you're just looking for work," Wharram said.

It is better to have tree-trimming done professionally, he said, since amateurs may not know what to cut and what to keep.

"You can damage a tree if you don't know what you're doing."

Shaking a tree during a storm to try to remove the snow will not do much good if it is of any size, Wharram said. You can try dusting the snow off with a long pole, but make sure the motion is downward, he added.

"If you apply pressure upward, you can break off twigs."

The company is still hard at work on trees in Port Hope, Wharram said. Because the town is hilly, trees with accumulated snow lean even more than they naturally would, he noted.

Snowstorm was hard on trees like these, on Toronto Road.

Severe snowstorm Dec. 10 and 11, 1992
It stuck to the trees loading the branches until many branches were broken with the weight, and much damage done.