



PAUL DALBY PHOTOS

And the envelope, please...

THE TENSION will be electric this Friday, March 9 at the Heritage Centre in Warkworth when the winning entry in the seventh annual Spirit of the Hills juried Art Show will be unveiled.

This year's judge Nada Sesar-Rafay, a noted Toronto-based artist, said this week: "I really enjoyed the entries, they were very diverse. But it was exhausting to pick a winner from so many good works."

This year's show attracted more than 100 entries, ranging from oil-on-canvas to sculptures, and they will all be on display to the public, free of charge, throughout the Maple Syrup festival week, March 10 and 11.

The best 34 entries will be hung in the Heritage Centre and the runners-up can be seen at the Salon de



Two of the five entries that made the final cut to the shortlist for the Spirit of the Hills juried art show. The winner will be announced on Friday. Pictured at the top is Lenni Workman's oil on canvas called "Spring's First", and below, is Jacqueline Stalkos' oil on canvas, an untitled landscape.

Refusee located at The Main Street. Cheeky Bee candle store on

Warkworth Filmfest a hit

THE FIRST WARKWORTH Filmfest, held through last weekend, hit the jackpot with movie buffs in the county. Total attendance for the five-film package, which included Deepa

Mehta's Oscar-nominated *Water*, topped more than 500 people.

The Filmfest was organized by the Friends of the Library and raised an estimated \$1,000 to buy

new large-print books, DVDs and children's craft supplies for the village's public library expenses not covered by the existing library budget.

Former cat shelter operator gets conditional discharge

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"She was doing her best to provide a safe shelter for these animals without any help from anyone."

In passing sentence, Justice Graydon expressed reservations about history repeating itself. He learned Ms. Hopley now has eight cats and cares for the dog that belongs to her daughter, who has gone away to school.

During her two years of probation — in addition to performing 150 hours of community service — Ms. Hopley is to have no more than nine pets in her care at any time.

"If any of those cats has kittens, you are breaching your probation order and your conditional discharge will become a conviction," he warned. "Make sure your cats are all spayed. And if anyone wants to drop off an animal, make sure you don't accept any more — unless you have lost one."

many of the cats abandoned into her care were unwanted, ill treated, ill nourished or unwell, the judge acknowledged. "It would appear that many of these cats did not get any better under the care of Ms. Hopley."

While she did not directly abuse or harm the cats, he summed up, she was unable to give them proper care.

"In essence, her guilty plea is a recognition that she probably, in hindsight, should have turned the cats over," defence counsel Dan Thompson said, as his client wept beside him.

Examining a pre-sentence report, Justice Graydon noted Ms. Hopley volunteers 20 to 30 hours a week at a Port Hope thrift shop that supports local charitable needs.

"I note that, according to sources, she is a kind person who would not intentionally hurt anyone or anything," he continued.

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Former cat shelter operator gets conditional discharge

Colborne Chronicle

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It was ironic an avid animal lover stood in Cobourg court on March 5 to be sentenced for cruelty to animals, Justice R. Graydon commented.

In the end, he decided, Linda Hopley was also guilty of misdirected idealism in maintaining what amounted to an informal cat sanctuary in Colborne. Ms. Hopley received a conditional discharge and will be on probation for two years.

When complaints came to the attention of animal-welfare authorities in October 2005, Ms. Hopley refused over the course of seven visits to surrender her 91 cats. The animals were eventually taken away, and she understood that all were eventually put down.

Part of the problem lay in the fact that so