

NORTHUMBERLAND
TODAY
JAN. 4/10

Colborne artist wins Governor General's Award for 'Bella's Tree'

BY MOYA DILLON
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COLBORNE — Modern fairy-tale 'Bella's Tree' has led to a fairy-tale scenario for its Colborne illustrator, who was recently awarded a Governor General's Award for her work.

"When I first read the story I thought, 'Oh no, what have I gotten myself into?'" said Jirina Marton, an artist and illustrator based in Colborne, explaining the repetitive nature of the story worried her.

"I thought, 'How many different ways can you show someone cutting down a tree?', but then the more I read it the more I thought there was something special there."

After accepting a Governor General's Award for Illustrated Children's Literature during a ceremony in Ottawa on Nov. 26, Ms. Marton now concedes that those worries were unfounded and calls the intricate illustrations a suc-

cess. Despite that success however, she remains humble about the accolade.

"It's nice to have your work acknowledged," Ms. Marton said. "But the most important thing is how you live and spend your life. For me I take the feeling that maybe you helped someone through your pictures or your work."

Bella's Tree tells the tale of a child's search for the perfect Christmas tree to please her grandmother. With the help of some friendly birds and the family dog, Bella is successful on her fourth try.

"You can't repeat exactly what's in the story because that would be boring," Ms. Marton explained of her methods. "You have to bring so much more to the illustrations so you bring readers to another world."

Originally from Prague, Ms. Marton moved to Paris after attending art school and eventually settled in Canada. She moved to Colborne from Toronto four years ago and says she

would never go back to city life.

"I would not change even if someone paid me to go to Toronto," she laughed.

"I take the feeling

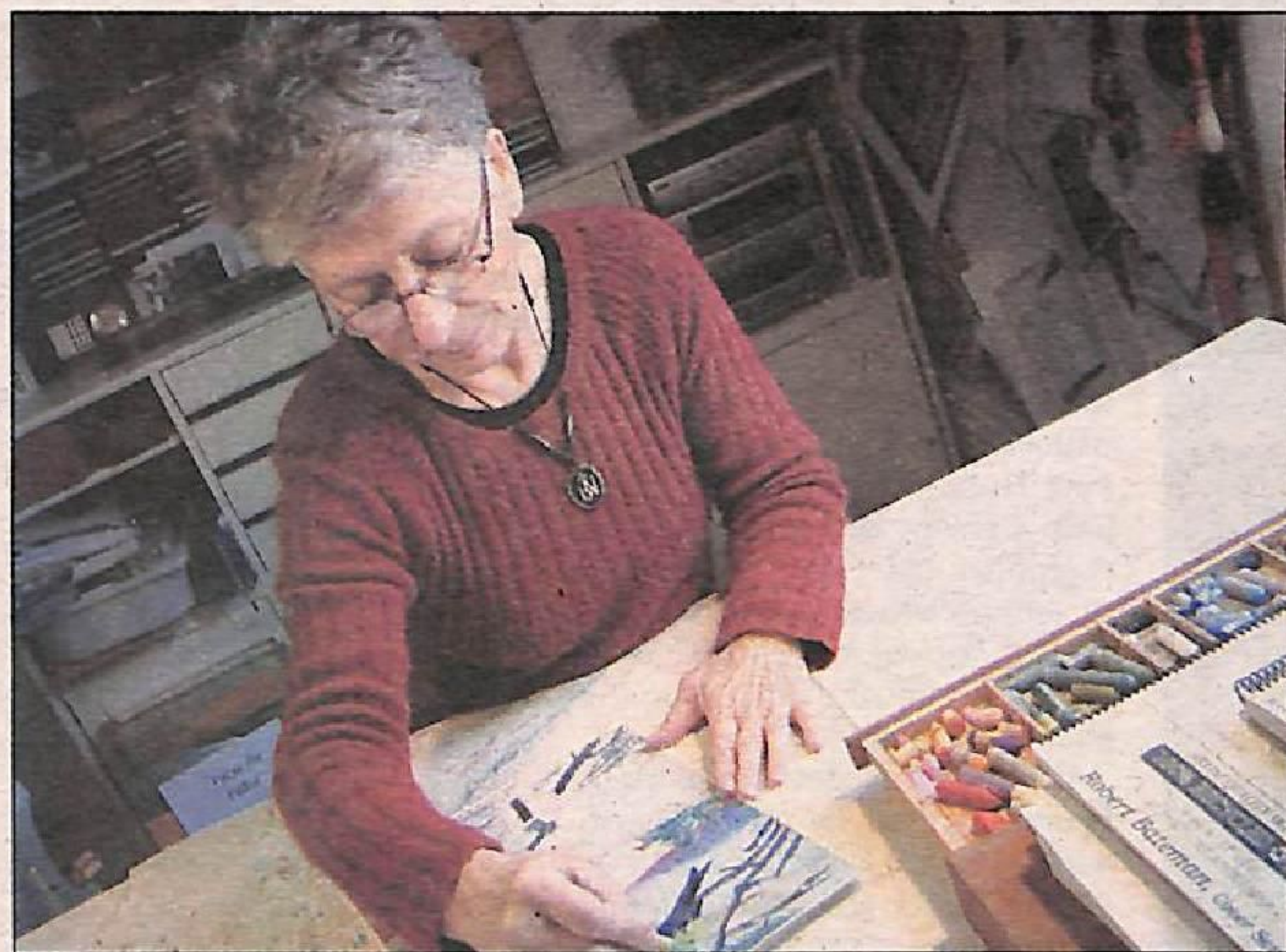
that maybe you helped someone through your pictures or your work.

Jirina Marton

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"The countryside is so beautiful, it's so peaceful here. I couldn't believe the difference in the people when I first arrived, it's like a big family."

Original oil-pastel illustrations from Bella's Tree are now available at the Colborne Art Gallery, of which Ms. Marton is a member.



BILL TREMBLAY / METROLAND

COLBORNE — Jirina Marton recently travelled to Ottawa to accept a Governor's General's Award for Illustrated Children's Literature for her work on 'Bella's Tree'. Original oil pastel illustrations from the book are now available at the Colborne Art Gallery.

PRISONER HURT

Inmate assaulted at Warkworth Institution

WARKWORTH — Warkworth Institution was on lockdown late last week as a search of a prison unit for items that may jeopardize the safety and security of the institution was conducted.

At 9:33 p.m. Dec. 29, a Warkworth Institution inmate approached staff. It was discovered the man had been assaulted by another inmate.

Correctional Officers applied first aid and the inmate was taken to Campbellford Hospital by ambulance. He was treated for injuries and returned to the institution the same night. Upon return, he was placed in segregation.

Police were notified. No instigator has been identified at this time, a prison statement Wednesday afternoon said. An internal investigation will be conducted.

In the interest of the safety and security of the Institution, the Acting Warden Angie Legacy ordered the lockdown. Visits had been suspended, but were to resume Dec. 31.

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Deaths

MOORE, Karen Erika - Peacefully at Northumberland Hills Hospital in Cobourg on Sunday, January 3, 2010. Karen Moore (nee Vibe), loving wife of Hugh Moore of Colborne. Beloved mother to Colin Moore of Ajax and Brett Moore and his wife Anne-Marie Moore, also of Ajax. Grandmother to Julia and Gregory Moore. Sister of Pastor Harry Vibe and his wife Inge of Renfrew, John Vibe and his wife Ruth of Erin, and Dennis Vibe (predeceased). Daughter of the late Erik and Anna Vibe. Special thanks to Dr. Peter Bryson and Jan Giroux, Advanced Practice Nurse of Kingston General Hospital, Dr. David Moorsom and the Palliative Care Team at Northumberland Hills Hospital, the VON Nurses and the Saint Elizabeth PSW's. A celebration of Karen's life will be held at the Cobourg Alliance Church, R. R. 4, 1333 Ontario Street N., Cobourg, K9A 4J7, (905-372-2311) on Saturday, January 9, 2010, at 2 p.m. Cremation. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Karen can be made to Northumberland Youth for Christ, Covenant House (Toronto), Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation or the Cobourg Alliance Church. Condolences received at www.MacCoubrey.com.

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