

Grafton landscape artist smashes her way into studio tour

Northumberland Hills tour Sept. 13 and 14

Todd McEwen
tmcewen@northumberlandnews.com

GRAFTON -- Anja Hertle is a borderline hoarder, but don't expect to see her on any TV show seeking help.

As a full-time mosaic artist, Ms. Hertle's home studio is chock-full of boxes, buckets and bins of broken mugs, plates and basically anything that has the capacity to be smashed into tiny pieces.

"People are nervous to give me a cup of coffee in a really nice coffee mug," she laughed. "I love the mug for what it's meant to be used for too, I don't break everything."

Her work ranges from detailed landscapes made from colourful shards of glass glued to a wooden canvas, to portraits of animals and pieces depicting vibrant scenes of nature.

A collection of her work will be on display for the upcoming Northumberland Hills Studio Tour, which runs from Sept. 13 to 14.

The tour provides art lovers a chance to tour artists' studios across Northumberland.

This marks the fourth year Ms. Hertle's work will be on display in that showcase.

With a number of other galleries in the area also showcasing her work, she's on her way to becoming one of Northumberland's go-to mosaic artists.

"I find little bags and boxes of broken things on my steps," she said.

Her career in the arts dates back to when she studied interior design at Ryerson University, but always had a thirst for creating fine art.

She didn't land in the mosaic medium until she found a course teaching the subject. "I took a course on how to do this and I've been hooked ever since," she said.

Originally, Ms. Hertle used tile to create her pieces.



GRAFTON — Mosaic artist Anja Hertle's work will be on display at the Northumberland Hills Studio Tour on Sept. 13 and 14. Her home studio in downtown Grafton is filled with boxes of broken dishware, which she uses to create colourful pieces of art.

Todd McEwen / Northumberland News

NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS AUG 14/14

As the years crawled by, trends started to change, specifically within interior decorating.

She soon discovered that the colourful and vibrant tiles that were once popular were no longer in mass production and becoming harder to find.

"Everyone's bathrooms are beige or brown now," she said. "It got harder and harder to find bright colours, and I love colours."

So she set out on a quest to replace tiles and figured she could make the most of colourful china and dinnerware that were also lush with texture and patterns.

"And they're three dimensional," she added. "That opened up a whole new idea of making the pieces three dimensional."

As a full-time mosaic artist, Ms. Hertle is constantly on the hunt for new material,

which often consumes her when's she out of the house.

Even when she's not shopping for art materials, she can't resist eyeing potential objects to take back home and smash to smithereens.

"I always keep my eyes open," she said.

"Even if I'm at Canadian Tire for something completely different."

To view Ms. Hertle's work, visit anjahertle.com.

For more information on the Northumberland Hills Studio Tour, visit northumberlandstudiotour.ca.

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY AUG 7/14

■ **RECOGNITION:** Winners will be selected by consumer vote

Ste. Anne's nominated for Wellness Travel Award

VALERIE MACDONALD
Northumberland Today

GRAFTON — After winning Spafinder's favourite spa in Canada award for the past eight years, Ste. Anne's Spa near Grafton has been nominated for the prestigious favourite wellness accommodation property in the country, says spokesperson Wanda Hoehn.

"Being nominated for a Wellness Travel Award is a unique honour that recognizes properties round the globe that offer exceptional wellness experiences," Spafinder Wellness award representative Mia Kyricos states in a media release.

These are the only awards that recognize accommodation destinations around the world that "leave visitors healthier when they check out than when they checked in," she states.

Winners will be selected by consumer vote, which is underway at Spafinder.com now through Sept. 19. Winners will be announced at the World Travel Market in London on Nov. 6.

Ste. Anne's was singled out as a key tourism destination by Northumberland County earlier this year in a brand new tourism marketing campaign.

Developed over many years from an inn, the stone buildings and separate cottage accommodation surrounding them sit atop an elevation overlooking the Northumberland Hills and Lake Ontario. Each year new spa treatments and facilities are added to enhance the spa goer's experience and many are repeat clients because of this.

Among the new services and accommodation offered by Ste. Anne's this year are a trio of new yoga retreats, a similar number of new meeting spaces, team-building activities and culinary classes, together with new cottage accommodation, says Hoehn.

FOLLOW OUR NEWS TEAM ON **TWITTER**
@NorthumbToday

36 **Deaths** **Deaths**

BLYTH, John Nelson - At his home on Sunday August 10th, 2014 in his 63rd year. Beloved son of the late George Blyth and late Eunice Blyth (nee Packard). Loving brother of Bob (Merrilee), Brenda (Doug), Barb (Dave), Victor and Rodney. John will be fondly remembered by his dear friend Peggy Tozek and many nieces and nephews. At John's request there will be no visiting or service. A graveside service will be held at Shiloh Cemetery on Friday August 22nd at 1 pm. If desired donations may be made to the Diabetes Association. Condolences received at www.MacCoubrey.com.

Northumberland News • August 14, 2014

