

Renowned artist creates Apple Blossom Tyme poster

Discovering Colborne was 'like discovering a gold mine of pictures,' says Karen Kulyk

By Eileen Argyris

A renowned Canadian artist, colourist Karen Kulyk, has donated her work to be used in the promotion of Apple Blossom Tyme here in Colborne and Cramahe.

"Flowering Tree with Two Chairs" was painted in the garden of Olde Seaton House on King Street East.

Ms. Kulyk has donated the rights to reproduction of the piece to the Apple Blossom Tyme Committee to be used as the official Apple Blossom Tyme poster.

Festival vice-chairperson Greg McMahon of Olde Seaton House couldn't be happier or more excited.

He said 2,000 printed posters will be made off the original watercolour painting.

The ROM (Royal Ontario Museum) will have a poster that will be displayed; also the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton (where Ms. Kulyk makes her home) the new gallery at McMaster University, the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), the Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa and Victoria Hall in Cobourg," said Mr. McMahon.

'ENTICING'

He expects the poster to draw a number of visitors to Apple Blossom Tyme '95 from farther afield. "It's an enticing thing," he says of the poster.

Ms. Kulyk is no stranger to the Colborne area, since she has been coming here to paint for a number of years.

She says, "There's more to the area than apples."

Although she has worked and exhibited her work all around the world, she says, "I really like this area very much."

As proof, she claims, "I rarely paint in Hamilton. Discovering Colborne was like discovering a gold mine of pictures."

The artist insists "It's not a superficial thing. It's the feeling of the place. I've taken the Colborne experience to heart."

What is the Colborne experience? For Ms. Kulyk, it consists of history, a feeling of self-sufficiency past and present, a sense of tradition and a respect for heritage.

One day last summer when she drove out to visit Olde Seaton House Antiques and her friends, Greg McMahon and Ian Anderson, she says she noticed the flowering crab tree in blossom in their yard, and thought about some other "symbols" that might represent "the area and the festival."

She settled on a remarkable arrangement of an antique chair under the blossoming tree, and a small table laid for tea, all resting on a quilt spread on the ground. In the background is a hedge and a Muskoka chair. The tree appears to be growing out of the quilt, which is also done in an apple design.

BRILLIANT COLOURS

"I wanted to bring the inside out and the outside in," says the artist. She notes that the quilt spread on the ground resembles a

carpet, and the antique chair is an upholstered chair of the type not usually found outdoors.

The picture is filled with brilliant colour — vivid greens, shining golds, luscious fuschia, with royal blue and purple accents. It is quite unlike the usual pale washes used in many watercolours.

"I use colour the way other people use words, to embellish," explains the artist.

She said, in her art, colour is the most important design element. That is why she is known as a

"colourist."

The arrangement of components in the picture is in no way accidental.

Ms. Kulyk says her vision of this area's rootedness in its past is symbolized by the antique chair and tea set. Its self-sufficiency is symbolized by the quilt, which also signifies heritage.

The flowering crab tree, of course, symbolizes the apple industry, apple blossoms, and everything about the festival. It is even seasonal.

The Muskoka chair is a touch of the modern and the hedge, beyond which the viewer cannot see, is the symbol of the future, which, though unknowable, looks promising, and indicative of growth.

All in all, she says, it symbolizes the festival which is, she believes, "not just a nice little thing to

do. It's what we are. It's what Colborne is. The more you look, the more you see."

When the posters arrive in January, said Mr. McMahon, they will be distributed first to those businesses which consented to become official sponsors of Apple Blossom Tyme, including the Colborne Chronicle, Fox IGA, the Village of Colborne, The Big Apple, Little Lake Pavilion, George K. Johnston Motors Ltd. and the Royal Bank of Canada.

Then they will go to supporting businesses, which will also then be offering "passports" to Apple Blossom Tyme for sale.

The passport idea replaces last year's button, and for a small price guarantees the bearer admission to all the "ports of call," the Apple Blossom Tyme Committee has planned.

ALL OVER THE WORLD

Karen Kulyk holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (honours) from York University, Toronto. During her 25 year-career as a professional artist, she has worked in many parts of the world, including Cuba, England, Mexico, France, Spain, Italy, South America, Thailand and Hong Kong.

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Artist Karen Kulyk (seated) signs contract giving exclusive reproduction rights on 'Flowering Tree and Two Chairs' to Apple Blossom Tyme committee. Committee vice-chairperson, Greg McMahon, looks on. Photo by Eileen Argyris

Train

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his home on Elizabeth Street playing cards, when he glanced south to the rail tracks and saw the train go by streaming fire in its wake.

He rushed to the accident scene and took one passenger to his home, where the man telephoned relatives in Montreal to assure them that his family was safe.

Mr. Johnston said the man's hands were cut

badly, and he was obviously in shock.

Another Brighton resident, Richard Cook, was pulling into his driveway on Prince Edward Street just south of the tracks when the train passed through.

"All I saw was what looked like a ball of fire. You couldn't tell it was a train," he said.

"It looked like something you would see in a movie."

Parade


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on King, north up Victoria Square and Percy Street, then west along Park Street and south-east along Toronto Road and back to the town hall, where Santa will distribute goodies to local tots.

Don't forget the carolling and tree-lighting Friday night, followed by the gala parade on Saturday. It's the beginning of Christmas in Colborne.


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A special thank you to all who supported me on November 14 in electing me Reeve. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who worked on my behalf.

Stuart Oliver



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