

**GEORGETOWN'S HEART: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE**

Reprinted from last Wednesday



Frank Black, Marjorie Nazer featured in celebration of local arts

**Just in time for arts centre's opening House Sol surveys our best painters**

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald Staff Writer

John Sommer, owner of Gallery House Sol on Charles Street in Georgetown, wants to set the new Library Cultural Centre a good example.

He's put together a survey show featuring five Georgetown artists: Frank Black, Gretchen Day, Reginald Finlayson, Jo Walteson and Marjorie Nazer. "A Survey of Painting in Georgetown" continues 'til Oct. 1.

"I wanted to do the kind of show one hopes we'll see a lot at the new centre," he said. Besides local artists familiar to area residents, the show includes novices.

Reginald Finlayson's acrylic paintings have never been exhibited in Georgetown before. In fact, this is Mr. Finlayson's first show.

"I've been essentially painting for myself," he said.

He paints as a form of relaxation, he said. A daily commuter to Toronto, where he's in charge of advertising sales for Chatelaine magazine, Mr. Finlayson studied advertising art, layout, design and color at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto.

Next to Mr. Finlayson's paintings are watercolors by Gretchen Day, her first exhibit at House Sol. She has previously exhibited at the Georgetown Library.

Mrs. Day is aiming to have her own show next spring or fall in the new home she moved into in July. She is especially pleased because it contains a studio and has lots of wall space for displaying her paintings.

Mrs. Day says she's partial to working with watercolors and acrylic paints. Although she does much more realism paintings than she used to, she still enjoys doing abstracts.

**ART TEACHER**

A former art teacher at a Burlington high school, Mrs. Day now teaches interior decorating part-time at Sheridan College. She has a degree in fine arts from the University of Guelph.

Most abstracts originate from something that was real, she said.

"If I look at an object, I like to visualize what it could look like flat," she said. Her watercolor "Iris" serves as an example of work bordering on the abstract, she said.

"Each shape is painted individually and it comes out as a whole. If you took one small section of it you would see it would be abstract," she said.

Shape and color are important to Mrs. Day and that's why she likes painting flowers, "because you can break them up into shapes," she said.

Most of Mr. Finlayson's works on exhibits are landscapes of Georgetown. Three paintings were done from photographs he took while abroad four years.

"There are places my wife and I went to that I know I'll never see again," he said. He's tried to recapture them with paint and brush because "pictures fade and so do memories."

"Some people paint to sell. I paint to remember," he said. That's why he changed his style of painting from abstract

to realistic in 1975. His paintings of Horrock's Hills in Australia and that of downtown Kabul in Afghanistan remind him of the time he spent there.

Before going to Australia, Mr. Finlayson used a lot of black in his paintings, he said. The light in Australia isn't filtered through clouds and is very brilliant. Three years of it brightened up his works, he said.

As well, Mr. Finlayson said he's trying to paint more people into his landscapes.

**HARD TIME**

"I did one with 23 people in it recently. I thought I was painting 15, but when I counted them, there were 23 people in it," he smiled.

Because selling his work is still new to Mr. Finlayson, he said he's having a hard time adjusting to giving his paintings to someone else.

"I'm going through a strange emotional attachment now to my works. I want to get

the names and addresses of the people buying my paintings to be sure they're in good hands, and so I know where they are, even when they're resold," he said.

As you climb the staircase of House Sol, you find the work of Jo Walteson.

Earthy browns, beiges and golds predominate, and even Mrs. Walteson herself is dressed in brown.

Living in Georgetown for seven years, Mrs. Walteson runs Forge Studio Gallery in Terra Cotta with Agnes Olive, a potter.

"I love shape and texture," she said. Working mainly in monoprints and watercolors, there is a pleasing simplicity in her work.

The remaining two artists, Frank Black and Marjorie Nazer, are local artists well-known in the community. Both have exhibited in House Sol before.

"None of my paintings in this show are new paintings,"

said Miss Nazer. "Some were done ten years ago."

Miss Nazer has seven works on display, some loaned by the show, and some owned by Mr. Sommer himself.

**IN WINTER**

Flowers are a popular subject for Miss Nazer, who paints them even in the winter when her garden is snowed in. She buys flowers, or depends on plants she had potted indoors, or she uses the hundreds of sketches she's drawn, she said.

She'll be having a big show next month at the new library complex she said, and it will be all new paintings.

Painting since he came back from World War I, Frank Black began as an apprentice commercial artist at Maclean's Magazine.

He taught art at Georgetown District High School for nine years after moving here in 1952.

Most of the work he's done has been in oil, he said.

"I used to do a lot of

watercolors, then they went out of fashion. People now like them again, and I've gone back to them," he said.

He's seen a lot of changes in the way art is taught, he said.

"There was a lot of discipline in my days at the Ontario College of Art," he said. "If the principal thought your work was any good he would put his initials in the corner. It meant something to you."

Mr. Black advises young artists to go to as many art galleries as they can to see as much as they can.

"Pick out the knowledge you want from the paintings, what you like and don't like, and learn from it," he said.

Mr. Black moved to Georgetown because it was an ideal place for an artist.

"You can get almost anything you want to paint here: rolling hills, old houses, street scenes," he said. "And you don't have to travel a lot of miles."

**History, uniqueness on BIA's side**

To the editor of The Herald: I was dismayed and angered to see such negative headlines on your report of our Downtown Georgetown study, Phase II.

For the record, it is true that we can never hope to regain our earlier role as the retail centre of Georgetown. What we CAN do is transform our core area into an important civic, business and cultural centre right in the heart of Halton Hills! Say so!

Consider this: We have right here not only what other places would give their eye teeth for but spend millions of dollars trying to re-create a compact, historic, old town centre with (and full of) unique character (s) and charm.

We have some beautiful old buildings, family-owned shops, land for parking, a major traffic artery link to the rest of the community and some lovely old residential space "right next door." We have a new apartment complex and room

to build more. We have a new library-cultural centre unique to all the area because of its "old town" location and historic site.

And we have a group of small business owners who care enough to work together to solve our problems and who spend \$25,000 each year out of their own pockets to try to make Downtown Georgetown a better place to shop and a nicer place to be.

Yes we have problems downtown. But, oh, do we have potential! And what's even more exciting is that now we have a plan. We've got a team of consultants working with us who have spent enormous amounts of time learning about our realities and who are committed to being really helpful, not "pie-in-the-sky."

They think that downtown is the very best choice for a new municipal complex; that we have every chance of being that "important civic, business and cultural centre."

Why didn't you say so? Of course it will cost money! Of course it's Mayor Pomeroy's job to make sure these costs will be within reason and the plan acceptable. But remember too - and write about this - that it's the lack of sound planning in this municipality that has been and continues to be horrendously, enormously costly to all of us.

Phase II was about planning, about policy for Downtown that will set the trend for years to come. To plan for a new municipal complex and/or a food store is progress finally. A good plan put into place years ago would have saved us from some of the very problems we face today.

Of course we have to start right away to do something about NOW. We know that too and we know that the small business person is often his or her own worst enemy, shunning uniform store hours and a unified public image.

But let's look at Phase II.

What we have now, for the first time really, is a strategy for planned change. We have the possibility of ending short-sighted, band-aid solutions. The study team has helped us to see and to re-think what our unique features are. It's up to us to build on the positive things we have here by taking

a new look around. The problems won't all disappear but like your headlines, maybe they could be re-arranged a little so that the outlook doesn't appear so bleak-when maybe its really not so bleak at all!

Lynn Barnard  
Chairman  
Business Improvement Assoc.

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American director Ira Wohl's critically-acclaimed feature film "Best Boy" will be presented by the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded Oct. 5 at 8 p.m. in St. Joseph's Church hall in Acton. Contact the association at 877-5537 for more information.

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