

# From geology to painting the landscape, is artist's life

What makes a man take a Gargantuan leap from geology, the science, to the free-spirited world of the painter?

It's simple, according to painter Mel Ferguson, whose works are on display at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre beginning this week. Mr. Ferguson's landscapes will be on display until May 23.

Mr. Ferguson's life has been devoted to the study of landscape. He is even employed part-time as a

landscaper. But before now the artist has taught school, been an active geologist and now would like to settle into the comfortable niche of a commissioned painter.

The artist can explain his style by offering a few pieces of his history.

"In high school, I studied from hand-perspective drawing. Later, I used aerial photographs when I was employed as a geologist." The photographs were used to interpret

geological structures and to produce geological maps.

Mr. Ferguson is the president and charter member of the Brockville Artists' Studio and Gallery. He is a Windsor native who attended the University of New Brunswick, where he received a degree in geology. He spent seven years doing aerial mapping in Labrador, Newfoundland and the northern parts of Ontario and Quebec.

From his Brockville home where he paints from his studio, Mr. Ferguson can spend over 15 hours painting landscapes and historical buildings.

"I travel a lot of the country roads surrounding Brockville for materials," he said.

But spending time in the northern climes have left him with a wistfully pining for more of the great outdoors. "It's my intention, when I get rich enough, to go back there and paint one day," he said.

In addition to obtaining a horticulture degree, Mr. Ferguson attended the College of Education and taught in high schools in Morrisburg, Lucknow, Midland and Brockville.

During this time he took private lessons in oil painting, pen and ink drawing and also studied at the St. Lawrence College in Brockville. His work was shown at the Westport Art Show for three years and has won awards. His works were auctioned off at the Watertown, New York Art Show on several occasions.

Mr. Ferguson's show opened May 2, featuring landscapes and buildings, including "Once Upon a Farm," a scene painted north of Brockville.



Artist Mel Ferguson blends the best of art and science as he brings geological awareness to his paintings. Mr. Ferguson's art, including this painting called "Once Upon a Farm" will be on display for the next few weeks at the Georgetown Cultural Centre. (Herald photo)

## Legion elects new officers



### Legion Lines

J.T. Hayes  
Branch 120 PRO

The Branch elections conducted last Sunday afternoon by the officers of Branch 114 Oakville produced the following results: President, Hank Russell; 1st Vice-President, Jean Narey; 2nd Vice-President, Ernie Peasey; Executive, Ray Clark, Paul Yates, Flo Carswell, Roy Bradley.

The Oakville election team led by Rob Charleton were thanked for a job well done by president Hank Russell.

The catch-up draw for car club No. 38 was held on Thursday, April 27. Winners March 30: 398 Em Sargent, 64 Gail Johnson, 497 Henry Graham, 107 Lil Chapman, 55 Hank Chaplin and 296 Dave Long. April 6: 280 Ken Sproule, 99 Keith Tracy, 47 Jane Lefevre, 258 Linda Paul, 482 Ethel Schenk and 180 Hal Hulme. April 13: 423 Derek Hardcastle, 100 Larry Doucette, 10 Graeme Goebelle, 294 Gord Coulighan, 314 Ron Appleyard, 279 Ron Richie and Dean Hancock. April 20: 472 Ray Ackroyd, 39 Gord Lane, 458 Joan Hayes, 419 John

Cummins, 197 J. Wilson, H. Allen, G. Telford and 351 Diane Parker. April 27: 223 L. Crawford, 210 R. McEachern, 272 C. Copland, 336 Harry Brantford, 347 Peter Todd and 226 V. Stapleton.

**FISHING:** The branch fishing dates for Glen Haffey are Sunday, June 25 and Sunday, August 13. Doris Bouley and Newt Monk have been appointed to chair these two events.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON MEAT DRAW:** Winners this week were Lynda Hamilton, Gary Kirk, Ron Stott, Dave Bell, Cathy McKee, Harry Bottoms, Stan Green, Ken Nash, Doug Logan, Ken Jones and Jason Fields. This week the roast was won by John Thibeault.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** Playing for your enjoyment in the lounge during the month of May will be: On the 6th, Ross Crawford, on the 13th, Mr. Dan, the 20th, Boots.

Imperials please note the next general meeting will be held on May 7.

Initiation team, next meeting June 11.

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