

Dave said. "In Japan, there were 50,000 people working in animation. At one time, there were more animators in Japan than anywhere else in the world."

In 1983, Dave and Dale had the life-changing opportunity to live and work in Japan for most of the year. The couple was working on the animated series Inspector Gadget and was in charge of making sure the series looked North American.

"For example, the Japanese read right to left so, to Americans, Gadget would be reading his notes backwards," Dave says. "Or when they say 'me,' they point to their nose. We don't do that."

"Japan changed our lives," he adds. "I learned to speak Japanese like a six year old and we're still in touch with people we met there."

After returning from Japan, the two continued working in animation. Dale is still at Nelvana, where she worked first as a production supervisor and, more recently, as a colour stylist.

Dave was forced to retire from animation a few years ago after his eyes started failing due to diabetes. Thanks to laser treatments and injections, his vision has improved but he still has to use a magnifier.

"I don't think his eyes will ever be perfect but we hope to get back to the point where he can do drawings again," Dale says.

"I wouldn't do anything differently, though," Dave adds. "Maybe (the job) brought on my diabetes and my eye problems, but I wouldn't trade not having diabetes for the things I got to do."

Although his eyes keep him from animation, Dave has found ways to keep himself busy.

He and Dale are very involved in Halton Hills' artistic community, attending nearly every art show and constantly adding to their personal art collection. They have also done design work for local organizations like the libraries, Light Up The Hills and Norval's Montgomery Christmas festival.

Over the years, Dave has written dozens of children's books that he hopes to someday illustrate himself and get published.

"I like trying new things," Dave says. "I don't like to show my portfolio because some people see it like a menu, like they have to choose from something I've already done. I don't want to do that. My whole career, I've tried not to do the same thing twice."



Dale and Dave Cox created the first animated non-commercial Christmas card. They finished the 456 drawings and post production in their October and November spare time and delivered it to their local friends via Citytv and also mailed it as 16 mm film prints internationally.

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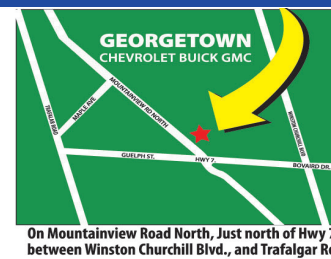


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