

Finding her stride

Artist Susan Johnson finds her favourite niche in painting horses

BY DEBORAH QUAILLE
THE COMPASS

"It just shows that I should have been doing horses all along," remarks artist Susan Johnson of Everton. "I always painted horses as a child."

Johnson has just finished a stunning new painting of Big Ben which has been reproduced in a series of 500 prints, 35 Artists' Proofs, posters and cards. Each print is numbered and signed by the artist, and proofs are also signed by Ian Miller, owner of Canada's famous horse Big Ben.

The piece celebrates 20 years of the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association.

"CanTRA had commissioned me to do various portraits of children and their horses. I'd done three of Sunrise Studio's beloved old horses, and when that went well, they approached me again."

Sunrise Equestrian & Recreation Centre of Guelph wanted to capture Frolic (d. 1997), Hoover (d. 1998) and Willow (d. 1999) in a limited edition print series as a fitting memorial to their faithful work-

ers, fittingly titled *Old Friends*.

When Big Ben died in December 1999, CanTRA lost a friend and ambassador. He and Miller were supporters for over 10 years, helping to raise awareness of the benefits of therapeutic riding through public appearances, a promotional video and the Big Ben Retirement Tour.

There are close to 100 CanTRA centres scattered across the country now. At these centres, children and adults with special needs are partnered with a horse to explore new dimensions in their lives.

"I'd done other studies of Big Ben, one of which was sold. Basically there are no photographs of Big Ben without tack on. I used 26 photos for information: the background, Ian Miller, and the child. I even went to Millar Brooke Farm in Perth to photograph the paddock. Big Ben was always turned out with his boots and halter on because he was a valuable horse."

The painting had Big Ben

cantering around his paddock, with Miller and a young girl on a pony - Johnson's daughter Sophie when she was younger - in the background, and behind them are surrounding trees and the large rock that sits on Big Ben's grave.

The print size is 25" x 19" and they sell for \$100. Signed artist's proofs are \$150 each. Posters are \$10, with the proceeds from sales going to CanTRA. As a special enticement, raffle tickets are available with first prize being the original painting.

"The final draw is at the Royal Saturday, November 11, for the framed painting. There are other prizes in the raffle as well. Ian Miller will be making the draw for the winning ticket."

"The Legacy of Big Ben" prints and proofs will be available at the International Plowing Match in Elora from September 19 to 23, and again at the Royal Winter Fair from November 3 to 12.

The cross county raffle tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. For further information please call The Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association, P.O. Box 24009, Guelph. Phone 519-767-0700.

Johnson was also recently commissioned to work on a beautiful display for the International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show, in the form of a 7 x 20 foot mural of plowing horses in the field, and a lifesize steel horse frame complete with tack and attached to a plow. The show runs September 19 to 23 at Wellington County Road 7, just outside the village of Elora.

For more information on Johnson's work, visit www.quican.com/rockside



Ian Millar, Susan Johnson and the completed painting of Big Ben
Submitted photo

What's up at the Writers' Festival

BY DEBORAH QUAILLE
THE COMPASS

Autumn's pleasures continue with an afternoon of picnicking and a feast of words and music on the banks of the Eramosa River.

The residents of Eden Mills will once again open their village to share in a celebration of writing for the 12th annual Eden Mills Writers' Festival.

Margaret Atwood is making a personal appearance at the lectern in the meadow by the river to read from her new novel *The Blind Assassin*. Atwood will meet readers and sign books from 1:30 until 2:15 in the expanded publishers' area and will read at 2:30 p.m.

More than 30 authors are lined up, including Montreal poet Anne Carson who was recently awarded a MacArthur Foundation "Genius" grant, and Alistair MacLeod whose *No Great Mischiefs* has topped best-seller lists for over 30 weeks.

The Festival offers some of the best children's writers, including Priscilla Galloway whose anthology *Too Young to Fight: Memories of Our Youth During World War II* is the first Canadian winner of the Bologna, Italy, Ragazzi Award for non-fiction for children. Jean Little will be presenting *Willow and Twig*.

Also being announced will be the short list for the new Upper Canada Brewing Company's Writer's Craft Award for a collection of short stories by an Ontario-based author published over the last 12 months. The winner receives a cheque for \$10,000.

Books by this year's participants will be available in the publisher's area and fans can purchase autographed copies.

For further information contact Jane Hastings (519) 826-0876 (email: edenmills@hotmail.com) or Kit Anderson (519)

570-7102 (email: kit.anderson@sympatico.ca).

The Eden Mills Writers' Retreat, new this year, will take place September 8 to 10, with workshops in Poetry, Fiction or Life Writing. Food and lodging are included, as well as admission to this year's festival. The cost is \$235; call Barzin at 519-823-2753 for details.

The 12th Annual Eden Mills Writers' Festival is Sunday September 10, Noon to 6:00 p.m., rain or shine (in case of rain the festival will be held at Camp Edgewood). General admission is \$8, students & children \$5. Advance tickets are \$7, students & children \$4. Advance tickets are available in Guelph at: The Bookshelf Cafe 821-3311, Sunrise Books 763-6610 or Macondo 836-0430, or at The University of Toronto Bookstore, Wordsworth in Waterloo and others.

Dr. Tim Peloso, B.Sc.(H.K.), D.C.

Rockwood Family Chiropractic



- Manual treatment for care and prevention of nerve, muscle, bone and joint pain
- Appointments available Monday to Saturday including evenings
- New patients and emergencies welcome

(519) 856-2624

118 Alma St. (Hwy 7 at Main St.)
Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0

FIT TO BE TRIED

Personal Fitness Training

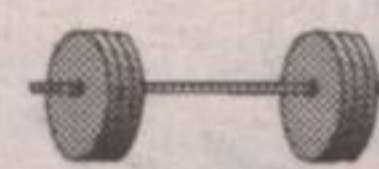


Work out in the comfort and convenience of your own home with a

CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINER

Special Senior Rates

Cross Training
Strength/Weight Training



Margaret Iutzi
B.A. Sports Admin.
519-856-0652

VIDEOPLEX

VIDEOS, DVD'S, GAMES!!!

NEW RELEASES EVERY TUESDAY

Unit 5, 178 Alma Street, Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0 519-856-9043

Village Beauty Boutique

Back to School Specials!



1. Student's Haircut \$8 (regular \$12)
2. Free French Manicure with full set of gel or fibreglass nails, now on special! \$22
3. Eyebrow wax (including \$2 coupon for next service) \$8
4. Lower leg wax (Regular \$27) Now \$22

155 Main Street, Rockwood

519-856-0803

Dr. Nailz direct line

519-831-0591



Dance Spirit Studios

Certified Member of D.M.A.

Registration for 2000/2001 DANCE TERM

Tuesday, September 5, 2000 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
St. John's Hall, Main St. S., Rockwood (Studio Location)

Tap • Jazz • Ballet • Acrobatics • Stepdance
All Ages • All Levels
Parent & Child Program • Preschool Program
Ballet Program • Social Dance • Dance Fitness
Daytime & Evening Classes Available

For Information/Registration, Phone
Angel (519) 763-6828

ANNIVERSARY SALE

\$25 - \$50 off

All giftware & gourmet foods

• Quality Cornfed Beef (aged to perfection)

• Naturally Raised Chicken

• Quality Pork

From Our Farm Country Shoppe

Now Open 9 to 6 - THURSDAYS TO SATURDAYS

Visit us at the
Milton Farmers' Market!
www.fromourfarm.com

905-878-9189 or 878-1892
8350 Esquesing Line, Milton

BERKSHIRE INVESTMENT GROUP INC.

DEBORAH EATON-KENT, CFA
FINANCIAL ADVISOR

12100 - 6th Line, R.R.#1, Acton, Ontario L7J 2L7

TELEPHONE (519) 853-5017
COGNASHENE (705) 756-8982
FACSIMILE (519) 853-4136
EMAIL deatonkent@berkshire.ca

