

Impressionism alive in Milton

Gallery owner raves about work of local artist

By JENNIFER ENRIGHT



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Milton artist Ann Kornuta (left) displays her painting entitled, *West on Main*, outside the Harrop Framing Warehouse on Steeles Avenue in Milton. Hedi Nowak (right), the owner of the Harrop Gallery, liked the painting so much that she decided to purchase the work.

When Hedi Nowak first saw a painting by Ann Kornuta she felt an instant emotional response. There were the bright colours, the blues, the greens, and the yellows. There was the suggestion of movement in the painting. All together, the impressionist work conveyed a distinctive quality that she says spoke to her immediately. "I loved it." For Ms. Nowak, the owner of Milton's Harrop Gallery on Steeles Avenue, the artwork also captured something of the town itself with a street scene along Milton's Main Street. Many locals will probably recognize Jo'leens, the women's clothing store, and Milton Greenhouses in the work.

"I just feel it's alive," Ms. Nowak says. "Let's put it this way: she has brought the downtown alive. She has created a mood and a feeling."

Ms. Nowak simply had to have the painting for herself. So she asked someone to buy the work on her behalf at a fundraiser for the Milton District Hospital Foundation held at Rattlesnake Golf and Country Club. Since the spring, the painting has been part of Ms. Nowak's personal art collection. However, instead of hanging the painting on a wall at home, the work has ended up at Harrop Gallery's framing warehouse.

Ms. Kornuta says the work is one of

a series of acrylic paintings featuring local scenes that she plans to complete. The subject matter is something that the 24-year-old artist draws inspiration from, not to mention the medium. She says her artistic expression is tied closely to her preoccupation with her hometown, not to mention other areas within Halton, as well as her love of acrylics.

THIS PAINTING MAKES ME SMILE

A description of the artist's work that goes along with the piece notes her enchantment with the work of Tom Thomson, a contemporary of the Group of Seven's. In *West on Main*, it's not hard to see the connection between Ms. Kornuta's work and Thomson's; in the tradition of Tom Thomson, Ms. Kornuta makes use of bold colours and she draws inspiration from the Canadian landscape to produce works that are meant to elicit an emotional response. It's that raw emotion that appealed right away to Ms. Nowak. For her Ms. Kornuta's painting fulfilled her expectations of what she looks for in a painting and at the same time it gave her a chance to promote local talent. "This painting makes me smile."

(Ann Kornuta has recently joined the *Compass* as a feature writer)

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Milton resident Ann Kornuta, a 24-year-old artist, created this painting that depicts the Main Street of downtown Milton. The bold colours and interesting angle of the picture give a new look to this street scene. Many Miltonians will recognize the site of Jo'leens's, the women's clothing store, as well as Milton Greenhouses.

Employers invited to participate in Halton Region's first Job Fair

Connecting employers with potential employees will be the focus on Thursday September 16, when the Halton Region Business Development Centre hosts its first Job Fair. Open to the public, the event will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Halton Regional Centre Auditorium, located at 1151 Bronte Road in Oakville.

The fee for exhibitor booths is \$150, which includes a skirted table and chairs, promotion of the organization's participa-

tion and refreshments. Advance registration is required. A limited number of booths are also available to community employment and entrepreneurship service providers.

Exhibitors may register online at www.haltonbusiness.com, or by contacting the Halton Region Business Development Centre by telephone at 905-825-6000, ext. 7740, toll free at 1-866-4HALTON, or via e-mail at busdev@region.halton.on.ca.