

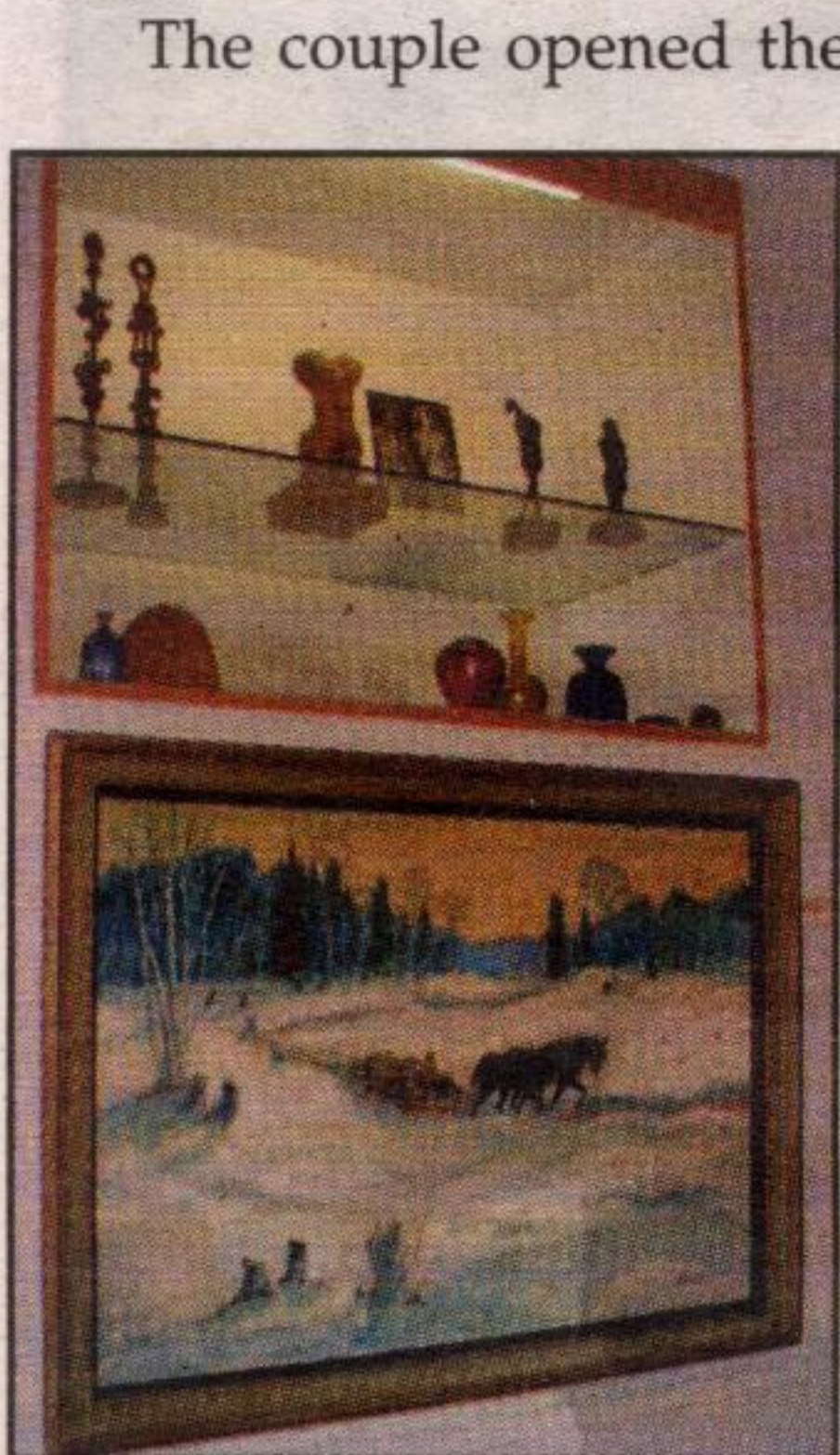
Home is where the art is

Exhibition highlights local and regional artists at unique Georgetown gallery

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

John and Gisela Sommer of Georgetown have a rather unusual home filled with numerous paintings, sculpture, and pottery.

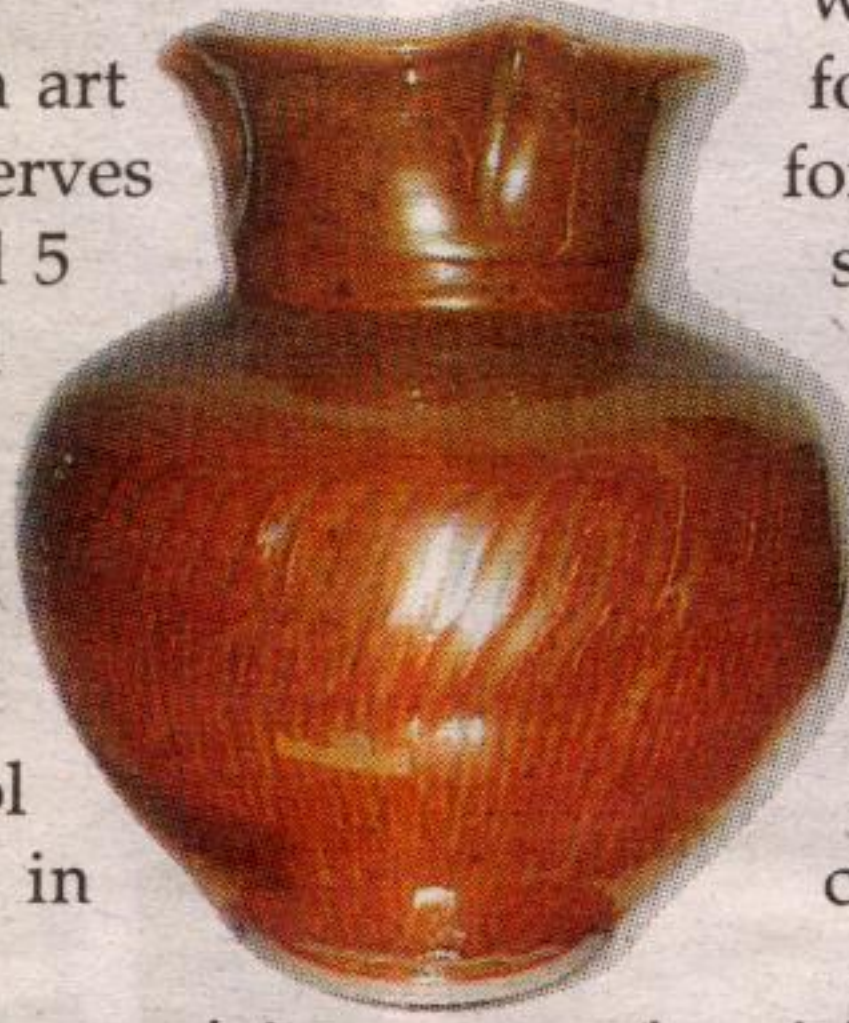
Each December, the two art lovers hold an art exhibition and sale in their home, which also serves as a gallery. And this year on December 4 and 5 from 10 am to 5 pm the doors of their home will be open once again to allow people to appreciate the work of countless local and regional artists.



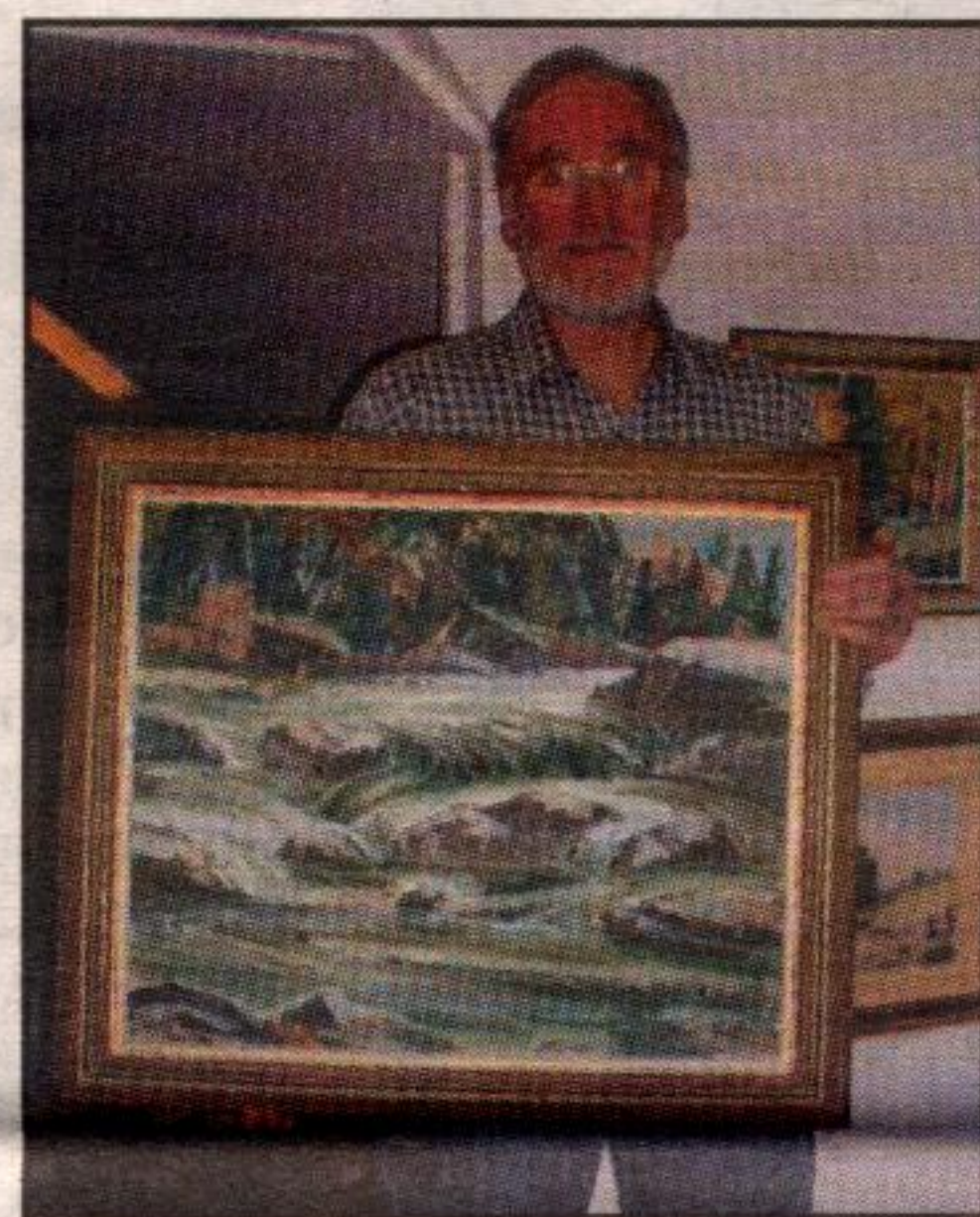
This landscape painting, entitled *Logging*, is one work by the late artist Frank Black that's part of an exhibition and sale at Gallery House Sol in Georgetown. John Sommer, who owns the gallery with his wife Gisela, was a friend of the artist for many years.

John can tell you that when they first opened their gallery in Georgetown more

The couple opened their gallery known as Gallery House Sol in 1962 in Georgetown, and they've continued to operate out of their home ever since. What makes their business special for them is not only the art showcased in their home, but also the intimate connection they establish with the artists that they get to know through their role as gallery owners. Over the years, the couple have met and befriended numerous local



A porcelain vase produced by Joseph Panacci is on display at Gallery House Sol. In the same room, there are also paintings by Frieda Nelson depicting horses and rural scenes.



The late Frank Black, a longtime resident of Georgetown, was a well-known landscape painter. John Sommer displays one of Frank's works, entitled *Eals Creek Falls*, which will be shown at the gallery during an exhibition and sale on December 4 and 5.

than 40 years ago the community had only "half a dozen artists," including Frank Black. Frank, who died in 1988, lived in Georgetown for 36 years where he became known for what John describes as his "very striking paintings" of landscapes depicting Canadian scenes. As John relates in an article he wrote for the *Georgetown Herald* in 1989, Frank inherited a "sense of craftsmanship" from his ancestors who were boat builders. Born in 1893 in England, he came to Canada in 1911. Later as a young man, Frank would hone his craft at a commercial art house in Toronto and then go on to work for MacLean's Publishers. But the First World War intervened, temporarily putting a stop to his artistic endeavours. Physically, he was scarred permanently as a result of his wartime experiences. Until he died, Frank had steel pieces lodged close to his heart that could have killed him at any time, but as John writes in the same article the threat "added zest to his life."

John feels indebted to Frank for befriending him and allowing him to exhibit his works at his gallery. Today, there are paintings that will be on display during the exhibition and sale that bear the name of Frank Black. At the Sommers' home, you'll find landscapes painted by this well-

known artist, including one entitled *Logging* depicting a man transporting logs using a team of horses. Another called *Eals Creek Falls* shows a scene of a waterfall located in Halton.

Through the years, the Sommers have met a lot of artists, so many that it's difficult for them to mention all of them. Andreas Drenters, a sculptor from Rockwood, and fellow sculptors Borge Jorgenson and Leonhard Oesterle will have their works on display along with potters Maria Jennings, Joseph Panacci, and Frans Rood. Then there's a long list of painters with pieces available at their gallery that includes Lin Yuan, Louise Laroche, Frieda Nelson, the late Charlotte Brainerd, Jan Zimmerman, Sharon Chalmers, and Lori Levere.

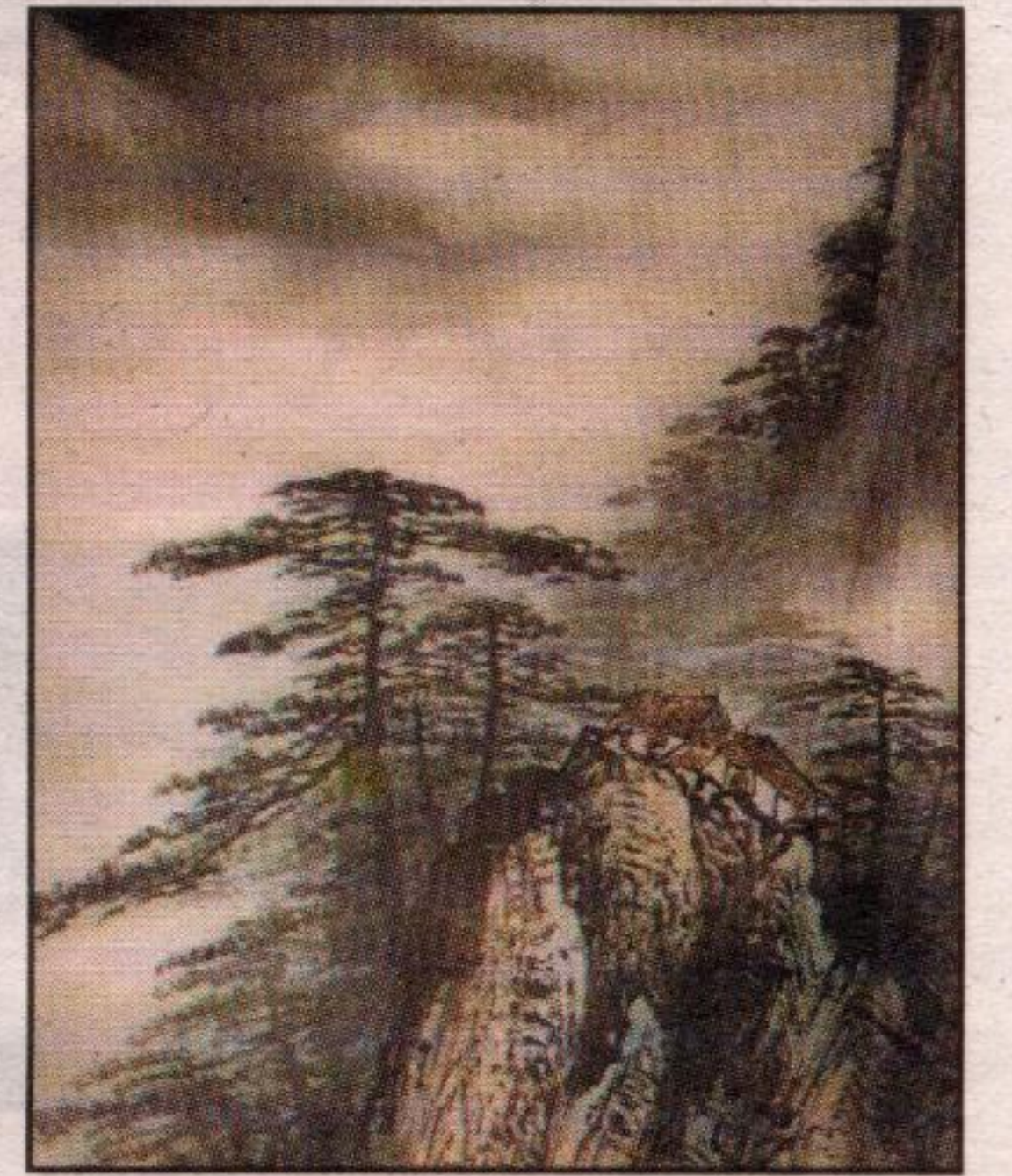
Now in their 70s, the Sommers are excited about what they see as a vibrant artistic community in their area, one much larger than the one that existed for them in the early 1960s. John says Halton now has "an amazing amount of very good artists."

For information on Gallery House Sol, contact the Sommers at 905-877-6460. The Gallery is located at 45 Charles Street in Georgetown.

People, who can't attend the exhibition and sale, can call to make an appointment to visit the gallery.



This clay sculpture entitled *Windswept* is the work of sculptor Dawn Schertzl. Dawn is one of a number of artists, including Agnes Olive, who work in ceramics and showcase their pieces at Gallery House Sol. The gallery in Georgetown also features works by photographer Kellie Joyce.



Lin Yuan, who has sold his work at the Georgetown market, also has paintings of his on display at Gallery House Sol. The artist, who resides in North York, is trained in the classical Chinese style of painting. His ink drawings feature narrow, long panoramic views of landscapes, waterfalls and other scenes.

Better Bread Basket

Georgetown Food Bank celebrates its renovated facility

BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT
Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh (left) attended ceremonies on November 26 to mark the re-opening of the Georgetown Bread Basket following extensive renovations. Mr. Chudleigh was joined at the ceremonies by Angie Marquez, a representative from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and Ed Cox, chair of Georgetown Bread Basket. The Trillium Foundation provided a grant of \$91,300 to finance the project. Mr. Chudleigh and Ms. Marquez presented a plaque to the food bank as part of the ceremonies.

The Georgetown Bread Basket held celebrations on November 26 to mark the re-opening of the food bank's offices following extensive renovations.

In March of this year, the non-profit organization received \$91,300 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to improve its facility at 55 Sinclair Avenue. Funding provided from the foundation covered the costs of architect's fees, the construction of a barrier free washroom and front door and renovations to the reception room and the shopping and sorting area.

Ed Cox, who is chair of Georgetown Bread Basket, said the funding has provided much-needed improvements to the building. "Our clients and our volunteers really appreciate the safe, comfortable, friendly and accessible environment that we have now."

The Trillium Foundation's Grants Associate, Angie Marquez, praised the group for making "an incredible impact

in the community." The Georgetown Bread Basket is a volunteer-run organization that distributes donated food to more than 200 needy families in the Georgetown area.

Halton Hills Councillor Mike Davis attended the ceremony along with Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh and Nancy Heinmiller, a director and past chair of Georgetown Bread Basket.

To reach Georgetown Bread Basket call 905-873-3368.

Nancy Heinmiller (left), a director and past chair of GBB, helped cut the ribbon at the re-opening along with the group's Chair Ed Cox (second from left). They were joined by Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh (third from left), Angie Marquez from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and Halton Hills Councillor Mike Davis (right).



Halton Hills Councillor Mike Davis (left) presents a plaque to Karl Carlisle, a director with Georgetown Bread Basket, during the food bank's re-opening ceremonies. The plaque notes the contributions of 17 businesses that donated time and materials to support renovations at the organization's offices in Georgetown.

