

COMMUNITY

CLEM SCHOLTZ USES RETIREMENT TO FUEL PASSION TO PAINT

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When Clem Scholtz starts talking, he admits he often doesn't stop.

It's those times when Liz, his wife of 35 years, quietly suggests maybe he should do some painting.

He takes her advice to heed, and the results are now on display for all to view at the Milton Town Hall's Milton Room until Nov. 20.

The longtime Milton resident describes his dozen or so works of art as landscape abstract and pure abstract.

"I barely used a brush on them," he said. "I'd say 95 per cent of the work is done with just palette knives, or plastic knives, sponges, paper towels ... anything to create a form of something that interests me."

Scholtz, 71, only started painting when he retired.

"I was getting bored of things," he said, adding he's never taken any structured classes, even as a member of the Fine Arts Society of Milton (FASM). "A lot of people in my family paint ... my sister, my uncle was a well-known illustrator in Germany, my great-great grandmother was a well-known painter of postcards in Germany."

"So I guess it just flowed through the system and I never knew."

The results are vivid colours and inspiring imagery that will most likely stimulate your senses.

And if it doesn't, that's OK with Scholtz, who doesn't pull any punches.

"My artwork was an experi-

ment, but for me, I really liked how it turned out," he said, adding he has another 25 works of art on display at FASM's Milton Mall location. "I create a form of something that obviously interests me," he said. "I paint for me, not for someone else."

Or, as his website (www.clem-scholtz.com) states, "I paint because I am free."

He uses acrylic paint, which he prefers because it dries quickly, and that works well for (self-admittedly impatient) Scholtz, who's father to three grown children: Zackary, a videographer, Deidre, a supervisor for the YMCA and Desiree, completing her master's in art history at the University of Guelph.

It was Zack who encourage his dad to pursue art.

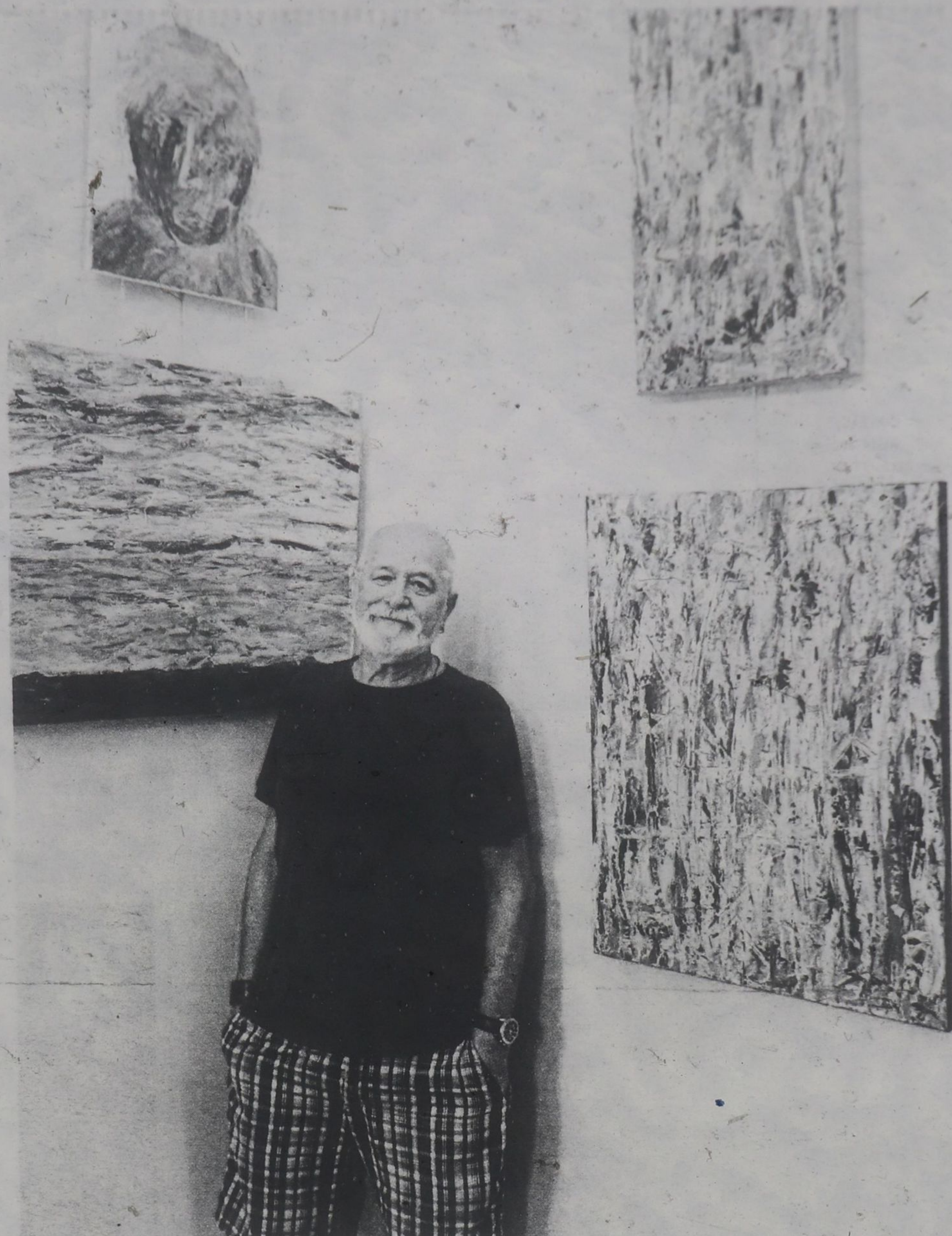
"He said 'Dad, you've been asking for art materials, just throw some paint on the canvas and get started,'" Scholtz said.

That's what he did, and he's been going strong ever since, creating copious amounts of art (you can see them on his Instagram account @clem-scholtz).

He also likes to experiment by running diluted white paint over top of his finished works, to create a fog-like effect, or even using a piece of sandpaper rubbed over the finished dried paint.

He said he likes to title every piece and add a personal or emotional thought that explains how he visualized the piece, leaving the interpretation of it, up to the viewer.

"The goal is to evoke emotions," he said.



Milton artist Clem Scholtz is pleased to have his artwork on display at the Milton Town Hall's Milton Room. Clem Scholtz/photol



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