

Artist relearning how to paint after stroke

• from SEVEN on page 10

As a teenager, another of Ms Clements teachers noticed her talent and submitted her drawings of plant life to the Royal Drawing Society in England. She won a silver medal.

After that, wherever Ms Clements went, she could be found sketching and painting people, landscapes and scenery.

Ms Clements, 88, has been to the east coast of Canada, where she captured the now famous scene of a red and white lighthouse overlooking the ocean.

The picture was recently rediscovered by Ms Clements stepson Don, who presented it to the artist on Tuesday. It was the first time she had seen the picture in 15 years and it immediately brought back memories.

"It was cold that day," she said. "I nearly froze to death."

It wasn't the first time Ms Clements almost scarified herself for her art.

In 1943, Ms Clements and a friend were in the village of Porlock Weir in England. Ms Clements was sketching the shoreline.

At that point in the war, the British were expecting a German invasion and it was illegal for people to photograph the landscape in fear it would fall into enemy hands.

The pair was arrested by the military police four days before D-Day, but were released, Ms Clements said.

Ms Clements thought the sketches were confiscated by the military police, but the sketchbook was recently discovered in a box and will be available at the show.

Ms Clements is a firm believer in continuing education. Throughout her life, if she wanted to learn a new medium or technique, she would simply go back to school to accomplish the goal.

At 88, she is again relearning her art.

A stroke four years ago has rendered her left hand almost useless. She had to relearn how to draw using her right hand.

She also had to change mediums.

Ms Clements said oils require too much room, so she has switched to watercolours, a medium that is unforgiving.

"One stroke in watercolour, if it's wrong, the whole painting is ruined. You can't take it out. With oil you can scrape it off," she said.

Ms Clements no longer goes to far off places to paints, instead relying on her memory or using pictures. She continues with it for pleasure and to relieve stress.

"I would go crazy if I didn't have anything to do with my time," she said.

The Art Show and Sale, A retrospective of Marie's Artistic Talent goes from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr. October 21.

During the day, there will be coffee and tea and in the evening there will be entertainment and wine tasting.

Previous buyers are encouraged to bring their purchases for Ms Clements and everyone to see.

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Fall's splendor and artists' flair ready to be enjoyed this weekend

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

The colours of fall are ... blue, white and yellow?

They are when it comes to the third annual Milton Area Studio Tour — featuring the work of 20 local artists in 13 scenic locations.

It takes place tomorrow and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Residents and visitors alike are invited to view the work of area artists in the place where it's created — their studio.

Featured stops are marked by blue, yellow and white balloons on the driveways. Those are in marked contrast to the brilliant fall hues participants can catch on the drive along the tour route.

The whole event is both free and self-guided. Viewers can plan their own route, beginning and ending where they please.

All tour stops are located within urban Milton, Kilbride and Moffat. The tour runs as far north as Eden Mills and as far south as Britannia Road.

The featured work will be on display and for sale. It includes pottery and wood and stone sculpture. There's also First Nations

art in fur and hide, Victorian screen doors and Native West Coast wood carvings.

The Tour is sponsored by the Fine Arts Society of Milton. It kicked off two years ago and was hailed by both participating artists and residents.

The tour allows residents to appreciate a wealth of local talent while enjoying the stunning natural beauty of the Niagara Escarpment.

Studio tour maps and brochures are available at a variety of public and retail locations, including the Milton Public Library, Leisure Centre, Seniors Activity Centre, Tourist Information Centre, Town Hall, Artistic Frame, The Gold Connection and Unique Frame and Art.

In Campbellville, brochures can be scooped up at Lott's and Lots Bakery, 1846 Log House Craft Gallery, Long Lane Orchards, Mohawk Inn and Conference Centre, Bruce Trail Eatery and Country Laine Cafe and Tea Room.

The Brookville Gallery will also have brochures on hand.

Colourful event close by

'Season of the Falling Leaves' is being held at Crawford Lake from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekends and holidays or with limited facilities on weekdays. The event began September 5 and runs through to November 5.

The public is offered the opportunity to view autumn leaves from the Niagara

Escarpment, explore the history of the Iroquian longhouse people, take part in free craftmaking and discovery hunts, and view videos and slideshows. Any visits to the gift shop support conservation, as all funds stay in the park.

For more information call Conservation Halton at 336-1158.

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