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Artists set to showcase their favourite works

FASM hosts annual From Heart to Hand show next weekend

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Milton has a wealth of talented artists, but all too often their masterpieces are confined to basements or home studios, seldom seen by the public.

Each year, the Fine Arts Society of Milton (FASM) gives its members a chance to put some of their favourite pieces on display and invites the public to check out these works of art absolutely free.

Once again, FASM's annual From Heart to Hand show and sale is just around the corner. This year's event will take place next Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, March 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Milton Sports Centre on Santa Maria Boulevard at Derry Road.

Wide array of art

"There'll be sculptures, stained glass, pottery, all kinds of paintings and photography," said FASM member — and Arts Milton president — Nancy Cuttle.

She added there are many new members to the group who'll be displaying their art.

In the past, the Friday night reception has been by invitation only, but this year, both days are open to the public.

The Friday night event will include music, food, a chance to check out the works on display and for sale, and also a unique fundraising silent auction.

FASM artists have turned 50 eight-inch by eight-inch blank canvases into small masterpieces, which will be auctioned off that night.

"They're going to be 50 little gems," Cuttle said. "The first have come in, and they're beautiful."

The auction will run from 7 to 8:15 p.m. The silent auction format is simple and non-intimidating, Cuttle said. The minimum bids will be \$20.

At the end of the allotted time period, the



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YOU'RE INVITED: Artists (from left) Susan Masson, Sandra Spagnuolo and Janis Hodgins show some of their pieces as they await FASM's annual fundraising art show.

highest bid on each sign-up sheet wins.

Artists have created some one-of-a-kind pieces.

"It's just a fun thing to throw up on the wall and it's not a big commitment financially or time-wise for the artist," Cuttle said.

Funds raised will go toward a portable display system that's been purchased for \$3,500, which Cuttle said will help immensely with the visual appeal of FASM's shows.

"If work's not displayed properly, it kind of defeats the purpose," she said.

The show will continue Saturday, when residents will have a chance not only to browse through the local works of art, but also to purchase a treasure.

More than 40 entries will make up the show, which will include paintings of all types as well as sculptures.

Cuttle, who's a sculptor, will have on display three pieces, including one entitled "Venus Rising," which deals with the aftermath of 9/11.

"It's another of my social (commentary) pieces," she said.

Cuttle said the From Heart to Hand event is a great way for people new to town to check out FASM — which has 125 members — and what it's all about.

It's a chance for both sophisticated art lovers and beginners to see what local artists are up to.

"It's a great place for people to start who

don't know much about art," Cuttle said, adding, "It's not intimidating art, and it's not an intimidating thing to come to."

The artists will all be on hand and love to talk and answer questions about their work, Cuttle said.

FASM member Doug Elliott has taken on the organizing of From Heart to Hand each year — no small feat, Cuttle said.


She's optimistic it'll once again be a success, bringing FASM and the public together.

"It's a real outreach into the community."


For more information on FASM, visit www.fasmilton.com.

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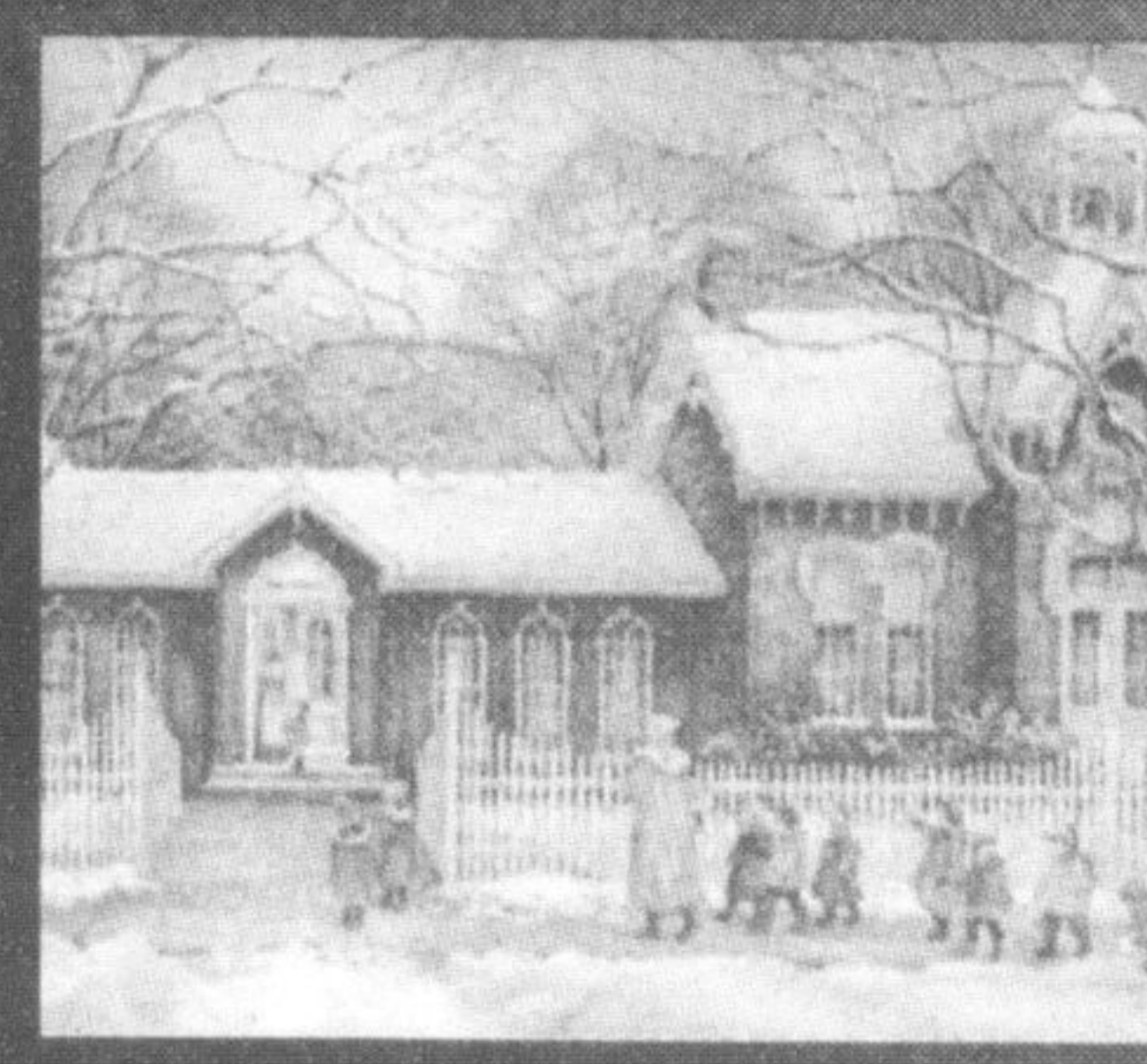
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