

# Love of horses, drawing, led to new career

## Self-taught artist specializes in portraits of horses

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

Debbie Goldring doesn't mind being accused of mixing business with pleasure.

The 37-year-old equine artist is the first person to admit she's making a career out of combining her love for horses with her ability to draw.

The beauty, strength, and uniqueness of horses attracts her to the animals, which are often the subject of her work. Mrs. Goldring's familiarity with horses helps her put their personality and spirit on paper.

"They're just magnificent animals," she says from her Wilson Drive home. "Anyone who has ever ridden horses never loses their love for them."

A native of Montreal, Mrs. Goldring, began drawing about the same time she started riding, when she was 11 years old. She's never grown tired of the hobby.

"I just can't wait to draw," she says excitedly. "The time that I do do it is not long enough."

A self-taught artist, she learned drawing skills through trial and error, while at the same time becoming involved with horses.

Starting out as a member of the Pony Club, Mrs. Goldring went on to grooming, training, and showing hunters and jumpers. She has also owned many horses.

After leaving her sales career to stay home with her son Brad six years ago, she decided to pursue her hobby as a business.

Using mainly pastels but sometimes pen and ink, charcoal, and watercolour, she also draws dogs

and cats, and has recently turned her talents to wildlife, particularly wolves and bald eagles.

Currently, she is kept busy doing commissioned portraits — work she has obtained through word of mouth and modest advertising.

It's not uncommon for a client to approach her with a photograph of a pet and hire her to draw it, says Mrs. Goldring. She starts getting Christmas orders in August.

To keep-up, she draws every day, usually for about seven or eight hours. Her commissioned portraits, unframed, range in price from \$75 to \$500 depending on the size of the drawing and the work involved.

The artist's original works can be viewed at Bahr's Saddlery in Hornby, Fox Covert Gallery in Newmarket, as well as at her home, where she produces most of her drawings.

Mrs. Goldring has lived in Milton for the last seven years with her husband Dan.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Artist Debbie Goldring of Wilson Drive draws animal portraits, specializing in horses.

### Bell sales van at Carnival

Bell Canada employees will bring their travelling sales and information centre to the Winter Carnival tomorrow (Saturday).

Crews will be able to provide same-day installation of certain units purchased at the converted equipment van that will be stationed in the Memorial Arena parking lot. Staff will be able to answer questions about Bell long distance packages and other services.

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