



Rob Gaston stands in front of the mural that he did on the wall of the Stouffville Dist. Secondary School cafeteria wall. Ted Wilcox



Steve Skyvington has a knack for capturing sports action in sketches and drawings.



He will be doing a sports mural on the gym wall of SDSS.

Two young men display their skills

STOUFFVILLE — Would you believe that the hamlet of Ballantrae is developing a tradition of wall mural artists?

From May, 1973 to June, 1974, Rob Gaston there labored on a long wall painting in the Stouffville Dist. Secondary School cafeteria; now, Steve Skyvington is preparing to paint a sports mural at one end of the school gymnasium.

The cafeteria mural includes scenes from across Canada in a panoramic view. "That particular mural was for decoration — to brighten up the cafeteria," Rob told The Tribune recently.

The mural was sponsored by the student council, who first had a contest for the design. Rob Gaston's design won, and as it turned out, he personally painted about 80 per cent of the mural.

The mural contains a mixture of realistic and impressionistic styles, including scenes of mountains, farmland, a waterfall, a map of Canada, grain elevators, a lake freighter and other items typical of Canada.

A plaque on the wall beside the mural gives credit to Rob for the long hours he spent completing it. As Rob said, the hardest thing about painting the mural was "finding the time."

Now Rob is a student at the University of Waterloo in a general science course. He hopes to become an optometrist

some day, saying his interest in art is "just a hobby."

The next mural to be painted at SDSS is to depict Stouffville basketball and volleyball players on a wall in the gymnasium.

Grade 12 student Steve Skyvington has been carefully preparing the plans for the mural before he begins. "I'm taking a lot of time in preparation so it comes out good," he said. "This

is my first really big project like this." The general purpose of the mural, he thought, would be to "psyche out the other team," drawing attention to SDSS's prominence in basketball and volleyball.

Steve would like to become a commercial artist, he says, and he currently enjoys doing illustrations portraying various athletes. One of his drawings will appear in the next Ontario

Secondary School Teacher's Federation bulletin; Steve received \$50 for the drawing. He has also sent his illustrations to sports magazines to see if he could have them published.

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Dry trees make serious hazard

STOUFFVILLE — Make sure your family isn't one of those left homeless because of a Christmas tree fire this year.

"Your tree, will probably be cut at least a month before you buy it," says Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food horticulturist, J. K. Hughes. "It will dry even before you set it up. So don't let your children persuade you to bring it in early and leave it in late. The longer you keep it inside, the more dried out it will get and the more of a fire hazard it will become."

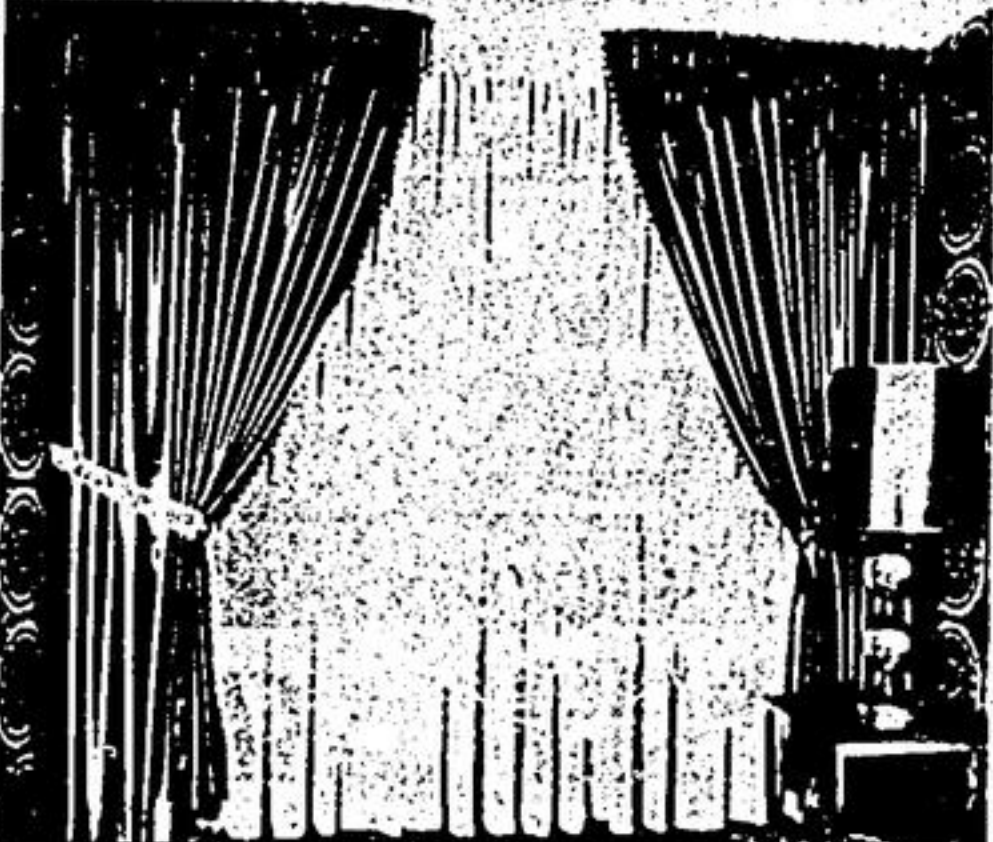
Regular watering will keep the tree fragrant and green and

will help prevent it from drying out quickly. Check its water supply every day, especially during the first few days in the house.

If your tree is frozen when you bring it in, let it thaw at least half an hour before decorating it. This will prevent its needles from falling as quickly.

Never decorate a Christmas tree with real candles. Check electric lights for short circuits before hanging them on the tree and keep trimmings that might ignite easily away from them. Keep the lights on for only short periods, and be sure to switch them off whenever you are leaving the house.

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