

# Jubilee artists reveal new skills



A visit to Stouffville's Silver Jubilee Club any Wednesday morning will find several talented artists hard at work including Joy Byer, 325 Elm Road. The little boy is her grandson, John Gordon of Keene, Ont., near Peterborough.



Joyce Hyde of Summit Place, Ballantrae, not only enjoys an opportunity to practice her skills but also the company of other local artists. An Art Exhibition and Sale is held each spring at Main and Market Streets. New members are welcome.

—Jim Thomas

## Amateur painters show professional talents

By KATE GILDERDALE  
STOUFFVILLE — The first thing one notices on entering the Silver Jubilee Club, Main and Market Streets, is the impressive display of art adorning the walls.

There are paintings of flowers, fall landscapes and misty morning lakes; some vividly colorful, others in soft pastels.

Art classes were first organized here in February, 1978. The delightful results have surprised even the artists.

"I hadn't painted a line in my life before I started here," laughs Alma Johnson. "I was a member on the first board of the Club and when they wanted to start art classes, I came simply to observe." Ten years and more than 100 paintings later, it's clear the program's enriched Alma's life and revealed a talent she didn't know she had.

"I never thought I could do it," observes Mary Bowden, whose work is very much in evidence, "but I had a friend who told me I was very artistic and encouraged me to come to class. Now I love it."

Mrs. Bowden explains that teacher Kay Parker has been unable to attend for quite some time due to a serious accident. However, the Wednesday morning sessions have continued with members encouraging each other and exchanging ideas.

"We work here and at home," explains Mrs. Bowden. "We supply our own materials. Everyone's very friendly and the atmosphere is good."

Some of their paintings are on display at the Sr. Citizens' Clubhouse in Ballantrae, as well as at the Srs. Apartment, Elm Road, Stouffville.

Olive Murphy enjoys painting. Several family members have been the beneficiaries of her skill. One picture, in particular, pleased her. It included her daughter and two dogs.

"I wanted to change the color of one of the dogs, to show how his coat had changed, but my daughter wouldn't let me. She was afraid I'd spoil it."

Mrs. Murphy finds the weekly classes a welcomed diversion.

"It's one thing I can still do," she smiles.

Art's been an important part of Joy Byer's life for years.

"I took four years of classes at Peterborough and I attended the Mary Snider School of Fine Arts," she explains. She's been a part of the Silver Jubilee classes since

they began. She finds them rewarding, both artistically and socially.

"We all take an interest in each other's work. We have an enjoyable time together," she says.

Joyce Hyde of Ballantrae appreciates the friendly atmosphere and the opportunity to socialize with Club members.

Mrs. Parker refuses to hide her appreciation of the artists and the work they do.

"It's amazing what you can do if you try," she says. "Many people are delighted with what they've been able to accomplish."

Other seniors, interested in joining the classes, (every Wednesday from 9:30 until noon), are invited to drop in, look around and talk to members.

A special art show and sale is planned for Wed., May 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

### The Menger Gallery

## Family hosts art exhibition

GORMLEY — To Pie Menger art is a family affair. Pie is an artist and a dreamer. Her dream of having an art gallery was not unusual but the dream included her three brothers, four sisters and their artistic abilities. The reality is that with much hard work and a great deal of imagination the old Gormley post office on the Stouffville Road has become a beautiful and historic backdrop for some of Canada's finest artists.

The Menger Gallery, like most galleries, is a showplace for original art works and reproductions but there the similarity ends for this gallery restricts itself exclusively to showing the works of the Keirstead family of artists.

Each one of the Keirsteads brings to life his or her own vision of our Canadian heritage whether it be in the landscape, flowers, people, century old homesteads, or the wildlife of our forests.

Spring Show '88 at The Menger Gallery opens Friday, April 8th, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and continues through Sunday, April 24th. This show will feature the latest oils and watercolours of five members of the family: Mitch, Colebrook, Pie, Anneka and Shon.

All five will be in attendance Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Mitch Keirstead is probably best described as a "life painter". Although his work is usually based on the landscape with a dramatic interplay of light and shadow, its focus is often the vitality of people at work or at play on the homesteads, farms and sugar bushes near his Waterloo home. Mitch paints primarily with palette knives but does so with a remarkable delicacy.

Growing up in rural Eastern Ontario exposed Colebrook at an early age to the intricate beauties of nature. His love of the outdoors is reflected in the subjects he chooses to paint. The old buildings, the rugged landscapes, and wildlife set in their natural habitat spring to life in oil paint in a unique combination of palette knife and brushwork.

The delicate touch is handled beautifully in light and airy transparent watercolours by Pie. Her sensitivity, awareness and love of nature are intimately portrayed through rustic landscapes and flowers. Her paintings evoke a feeling of tranquility and yet express an exuberance for life.

In her oil paintings, Anneka seeks to capture the beauty of our lakes, rivers, waterfalls and picturesque snow-covered valleys. Textured with a palette knife, evergreens and birches are a dominant theme in her landscapes.

Spring Show '88 heralds the introduction of Shon, the eldest sister in the Keirstead family. Painting mainly with knives, Shon's recent work reflects her affinity for the east coast and the Great Lakes. The collection includes a variety of landscape, seascape and lighthouses from both areas.

An art show well worth seeing — Spring Show '88 at The Menger Gallery, located on the Stouffville Road between Hwy. 404 and Woodbine Ave., Gormley.

The show opens Friday, April 8 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and continues through Sunday, April 24. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For further information please call 887-5795.

### Editor's Mail

## Environment protection

Dear Editor:

At a time when there are so many pollutants fouling our air, ground and most of all our water, causing all kinds of sickness, wouldn't you expect this municipal government would take heed to complaints from larger populations who are totally against spraying?

Why can't Whitechurch-Stouffville set an example for surrounding municipalities and find alternate solutions to poison?

The cheapest and simplest in the long run would be to spray the seeds of a ground cover. Within a couple of years, the ditches would look and smell wonderful. Nothing and no one would suffer.

In two years, when spraying was intended again, (at a cost of close to \$5,000) the cover would have taken over, choking out the so-called noxious weeds and leaving only the green.

Not only would this save thousands of dollars, but we'd have a healthier population of birds, bees and beneficial insects. We in turn would also be healthier and the country roadsides would be prettier.

Ground cover in ditches would serve the same purpose as the weeds do now, serving as filters for the run-off of salt and silt. It would also serve as very effective erosion control.

Wouldn't it be great never to spray poisons along our country roads again?

Think of the money we'd save!  
Think of the votes politicians would receive!  
I hope I live long enough to see the day when the silling stops when the spraying of poisons becomes a process of the dark ages of the 80s.

With all due respect and love for the natural environment and for those who share my concern, I remain

Sincerely,  
Mary Hopkins  
R.R. 1, Gormley

## Family visitors from B.C.

By EVELYN MILSTED  
GORMLEY — Mrs. Esther Klauke of Surrey, British Columbia, is spending two weeks with her great-uncle and great-aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Mel Baker. Mr. Clarence Summerfeldt of Parkview Home, Stouffville, is also visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Baker while his granddaughter is here from the West.

Mr. and Mrs. Rolph Noble of Palmerston, spent the Easter weekend with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Bennett and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Winger enjoyed the Easter holiday with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Gilmore and family of Wainfleet.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hall spent several days with their brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. George Snider of Wainfleet.

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Winger and Mr. and Mrs. Tim Winger of Listowel visited with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bennett, Easter weekend.

The Heise Hill Young People entertained a large crowd at an Easter Sunday morning breakfast.

## Blood Donor Clinic

A Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic will be held Fri., April 8 from 2 to 8 p.m., in the Stouffville Legion Hall.

The Legion Ladies Auxiliary will host the event.

Babysitting will be provided.

### York Central Auxiliary

## Annual bazaar

The York Central Hospital, (Richmond Hill), Auxiliary is holding its annual Country Store Bazaar this Saturday, (April 9), from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Don Head Secondary School.

The location is 300 Major Mackenzie Drive West, Richmond Hill.

In addition to an array of crafts,

toys, clothing and home-baking, a beautiful hand-made quilt will be raffled at 1 p.m.

Donations are still being accepted. Drop-off points follow:

Nearly-new clothing — Mrs. Florence Baird, (889-3094); White elephants — Mrs. Gladys McLatchy, (884-1733).

Refreshments will be served.

## Fertilizer

STOUFFVILLE — One sure sign of spring is the Stouffville Lions annual Fertilizer Sale.

The single-day event is Sat., April 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Deliveries, (44 lb. bags), are made door-to-door.

Prices range from \$7 to \$12 with all proceeds for Lions' community work.

## Trees killed

MUSSELMAN'S LAKE — Hundreds, perhaps thousands of young trees have been destroyed in the Ninth Line North area of Musselman's Lake.

Dirt bike riders and snowmobilers have all but wiped out the plantation, The Tribune was told.

York Regional Police and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources have been notified.

### Peter Cottontail made house calls

