



Popular Stouffville artist Gordon Hatt is often in demand in the area by people seeking to have their homes depicted on canvases. At 82, Gordon still maintains a passion for his work and can be found toiling in his basement studio. His first drawing was of a friend's St. Bernard dog done in 1927.

Stouffville artist's work spans more than 60 years

By BRUCE STAPLEY
At age 82, Gordon Hatt still possesses the steady hand that has been drawing landscape water color paintings for over 60 years.
The retired typographer, who came to Canada in 1953 from England, has called Stouffville home for the past 18 years, where he has lived with his wife Victoria.
And while not quite as prolific as he once was, Gordon will take on eight or so commissions annually to draw a house, an historic building, or a newly constructed shopping plaza in town.
It was he who people turned to in 1987 when they wanted a drawing of Summitview School done for retiring Principal Lorne Roadway. He was asked to paint a lasting impression of the Sanders Block while it still housed Card's Hardware, before the structure was slated for demolition.
Gordon has immortalized the old Post Office through his artistic efforts, along with the old train station, and many Stouffville area churches. And he has painted numerous century homes for Stouffville residents.
Gordon claims he acquired his talents from his father and

grandfather. "They were both artists and Master Printers," he says. He studied at the London Polytechnic and Camberwell Schools of Art in England.
His last water color done before leaving England was purchased by a library board, and now hangs in an established museum.
He has always felt there was a natural connection between his career as a typographer, and his art. "My artistic abilities always helped when I had to indicate illustrations in a layout."
In 1965, thanks in part to his talents as an artist, he took the award of Best Overall Entry in the International Typographic Composition contest held in Chicago.
The 35 paintings that adorn his home were drawn from scenes he encountered in his many world travels, including drawings done while in England, France, Holland, Switzerland, the United States and India, where he worked with the British "Special Operations" Executive during World War II.
Today, he still works from his basement studio, where he sits and paints, using photographs as a guide. "I'll take a picture of the house or farm, then draw it from that. Sometimes it is necessary to

go back to the scene several times to get it just right."
Gordon believes in giving his customers what they want, not what he might like a picture to look like. "I've known artists who couldn't sell their work because they would draw it to suit themselves, leaving out windows and doors. I try to do a true, authentic drawing. That's what the client wants."
"I have an eye for detail. I don't leave anything out. If someone wants a bike in the front yard, I'll put one there."
He says that as an artist, he can't overemphasize the importance of lighting and shade in a drawing. "Sometimes I'll look at a house for a week or so to get the right angle of the sun so the shadows will be right. Some houses never have the sun on the front, or perhaps the back. You've got to catch it just right so it will look like it really does."
Gordon claims it takes him about three weeks to complete a drawing. And while the end result is always satisfying, he admits he's always a little nervous until it's completed. "It can be demanding. It's not truly relaxing until the picture is finished."

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