

Arts & Entertainment

Art

Guttorn Otto brings life to power of nature

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Correspondent

Magnificent land and seascapes; a chilly winter's night starkly captured in the eerie light of the moon; a breath of summer personified by stately delphiniums in a delightful cottage garden.

The work of Guttorn Otto brings to life the power and beauty of nature. Water and sky hold a particular fascination for this accomplished artist, whose Ballantrae home doubles as a gallery and provides the perfect setting for the 150 or so pieces of work which hang on its walls.

A native of Poland, Otto grew up in an artistic and musical family, attending the Conservatory of Music in Lodz with the idea of eventually becoming a cellist.

After serving in the army and being wounded in battle, he left Poland for Bavaria and for three years eked out an existence by painting portraits. In 1952 he immigrated to Canada and worked at a number of jobs, including house painting.

Otto works in both oil and watercolor, capturing the unique beauty of the Canadian



The art of Guttorn Otto is on exhibit today and tomorrow at 5845 Aurora Rd.

countryside from British Columbia to Ontario. Much of his work depicts the area around Parry Sound, where he owns a cottage and 190 acres of land.

"On one of my painting trips, about 25 years ago, I found this place," he recalled. He saw the for sale sign and contacted the real estate agent, who told him the price was \$9,000.

"I wasn't really serious about buying, but because they wanted to sell they brought the price down even further and I got it for a steal."

Trees are something of a passion for Otto, who planted 35,000 on his Parry Sound property. On occasion his enthusiasm has been known to backfire on him, however, as the trees grow and sometimes block out a view that particularly appeals to him.

"I built a log house which I finished five years ago and which I often utilize. Many of my friends who enjoy the outdoors love this place and it only takes three hours to get there."

Otto did less painting than usual this summer, because he was involved in building a garage for his Ballantrae home with the help of his grandson, Carl. "The summer went by and I didn't paint that much, so I was in trouble when I announced my show," he said with a wry smile.

"At the same time I have portraits to paint and I had many commitments to teach in October and November. The last place I taught was the Markham Group of Artists, about three weeks ago."

Nevertheless, Otto has a fine body of work to exhibit, some of it recent, some going back 40 years. His home, nestled among his beloved trees, provides the perfect setting for his work, some of which depicts familiar local scenes.

His exhibition of paintings continues today and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 5845 Aurora Side Rd. in Ballantrae, about one and a half kilometres east of Highway 48 on the south side.

For more information call 640-1807.

FLICK PICK

December 3 - 9	CRITICS AVERAGE	MPAA RATING	THEME	VOLENCE	COARSE LANG.	SEX & NUDITY
1. Mrs. Doubtfire (new)	★★★	PG-13	Comedy	None	Much	None
2. Addams Family Values	★★★	PG-13	Comedy	Some	Mild	Mild
3. A Perfect World (new)	★★★	PG-13	Thriller	Much	Much	Some
4. The Three Musketeers	★★	PG	Adventure	Some	None	Mild
5. Carlito's Way	★★★	R	Thriller	Lots	Lots	Much
6. My Life	★★★	PG-13	Drama	None	Some	Mild
7. We're Back (new)	★★	G	Animation	Mild	None	None
8. Nightmare Before Xmas	★★★	PG	Fantasy	Some	None	None
9. Man's Best Friend	★	R	Thriller	Much	Much	Some
10. The Piano (new)	★★★★	R	Drama	Much	Mild	Lots

VIDEO PICK

December 3 - 9	CRITICS AVERAGE	MPAA RATING	THEME	VOLENCE	COARSE LANG.	SEX & NUDITY
1. Rising Sun (new)	★★★	R	Thriller	Lots	Lots	Lots
2. Cliffhanger	★★★	R	Action	Lots	Lots	None
3. Free Willy	★★★	PG	Drama	Mild	None	None
4. Aladdin	★★★★	G	Animation	Mild	Mild	None
5. Made in America	★★★	PG-13	Comedy	None	Much	Some
6. Huck Finn	★★★	PG	Adventure	Some	Mild	None
7. Indecent Proposal	★★	R	Drama	Mild	Lots	Much
8. Sliver	★★	R	Thriller	Much	Lots	Lots
9. Muppet Christmas Carol	★★★	G	Fantasy	Mild	None	None
10. Life with Mikey	★★	PG	Comedy	None	Some	None

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Economist & Sun

Markham Theatre 335

For more information call

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