

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Nature is backdrop for Art in the Park

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With attendance expected to top the 6,000 mark, Harvey suggests Art in the Park will enable Stouffville to take its place among towns offering popular attractions in summer time in this province.

"Holding our fourth annual Art in the Park festival here will help put the community of Stouffville on the map of summer highlights in Ontario."

Proceeds from the show are to be donated to the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation and the Latcham Gallery.

According to Stouffville artist Sandra Cole-Burke, who is among the more than 90 artists who have already signed on for this year's show, the casual outdoor format is ideal for the artists as well as those who attend.

"As an artist, you get the chance to see what other artists are doing," said Burke, who will display samples of her watercolours and wood block prints. "For the people who come, it's a good chance to see art you've never seen, and to actually meet the artist, or even see the artist at work."

Children will also be given an opportunity to get in on the fun. Jimbo the Clown will be on hand to make balloon animals, perform magic tricks, and paint the kids' faces by airbrush. The supervised Kreative Kids Pavilion gives children the chance to create their own art.

Burke, who has volunteered to organize the kids' area, is hoping to have tables set up where the young ones can create their own banners out of cotton. She's also working on an idea that will make newsprint available for young artists, who will use water soluble markers, crayons, and water-based paint to paint their own masterpieces. Smocks will be available for young artists who come dressed in their best clothes.

With 10 years experience teaching art to children, Burke suggests the young ones thrive on giving their artistic creativity free reign.

"They love it, it's a form of expression for them. And the end result always looks good to them."

Burke is typical of the unique artists who will set up at the show. A member of the Lemonville Group of Artists, she studied graphic arts in Montreal, where she also taught art at a school for the handicapped.

For accomplished Markham watercolour artist Sue Firkser, Art in the Park is a chance to display her work while involving herself in the local art scene. A member of the Markham Group of Artists since 1974, this will be her first appearance at Art in the Park.

"It's a local show and I'm a local artist," Firkser said. Specializing in florals and landscapes, Firkser's paintings draw from her life experiences and personal inner visions. Her

work includes garment and fabric design, photography and fluid acrylics.

Firkser received her diploma in Art and Design from the School of Art in Johannesburg, South Africa. She recently started up an art school in Markham called the Village Art Studio, combining with a potter's studio on the same site.

She sees Art in the Park as a means for local art appreciators to discover what lies out there for them.

"The people in this area can see just what art is around here. It's a good opportunity for artists too."

Firkser has provided art instruction to children and adults and has herself benefited from the guidance of many renowned Canadian artists. She has worked at the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg, guiding tours and talking about the Group of Seven. She has participated in numerous group shows and her work is on display at various art galleries and shows across Ontario.

For the fourth straight year, the work of Sunderland artist Walter Campbell will add a touch of nostalgia to Art in the Park '99. Campbell, who maintains a studio in Richmond Hill, conjures up memories of simpler times with authentic dry brush paintings which hearken back to Canada's Victorian era.

His work features leisurely modes of transportation such as horses and buggies and horse-drawn sleighs, images of skaters lacing up and twirling in the fresh air on a frozen pond, and families gathering on the lawn after church in summertime for a game of croquet.

"There's a strong emotional attachment to a more tranquil life in my work," Campbell said. "People can imagine themselves in that pace of life."

Campbell, who has been offering his limited edition and signature series prints for almost three decades, draws from his own time spent living in a century farm house when he would talk with long-time residents about days gone by.

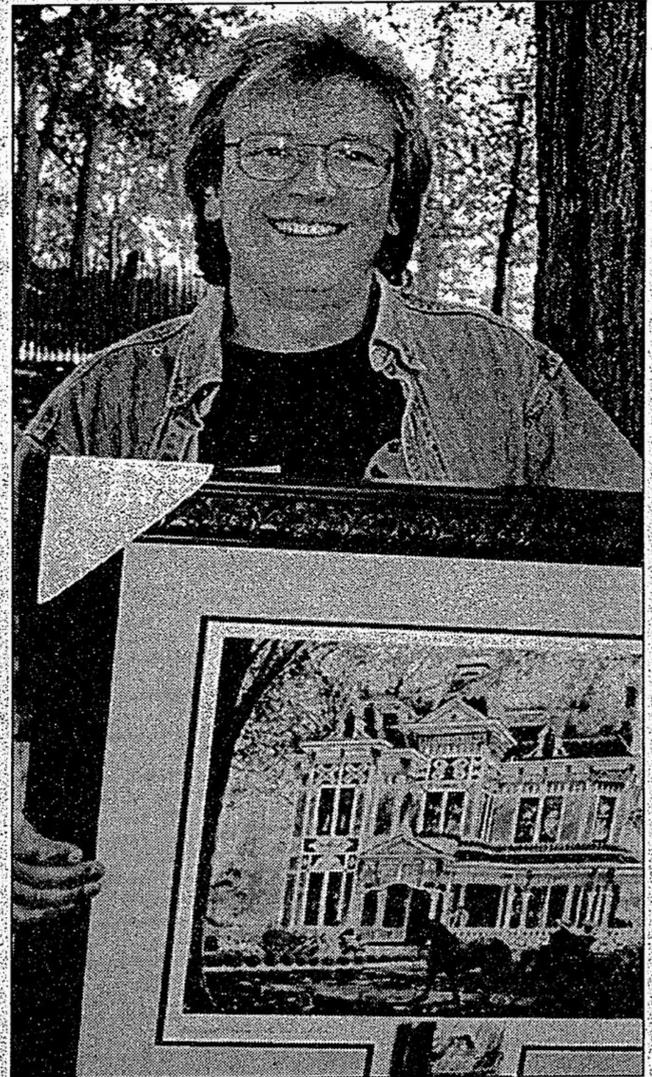
Each painting has a Victorian structure as its focal point, with detailed turn of the century costumes and sleighs adding to the fantasy.

For Campbell, Art in the Park represents an opportunity to make contact with those who appreciate his work, and to meet people who appreciate all types of fine art.

"It's a great atmosphere. There's lots of colour and activity. Meeting the collectors is always a thrill for me."

Those looking to get a preview of Art in the Park can visit the *Tribune's* show booth at Memorial Park as part of Strawberry Festival July 3. Jimbo the Clown will be on hand, and there is to be a collage representing the variety of artists who will be at Art in the Park '99.

The registration deadline for artists looking to take part in Art in the Park '99 is June 19. Contact *The Tribune* at 640-2100



Sunderland artist Walter Campbell will return to Art in Park with his dry brush paintings.



Jeanne Bowman and her watercolours will be featured at this year's Art in the Park. Bowman, of Markham, is one of the nearly 100 artists from across southern Ontario to show their work at the annual exhibition.

Philharmonia Society in Sunday evening performance

A more intimate venue will provide the ideal space to enjoy the Philharmonia Society of Markham.

The All Saints Anglican Church on Denison Street near Warden Avenue is a lovely acoustical environment for music, especially chorale music," society director Christopher Cotton said.

Cotton described the concert as a "balance of the serene, the sublime, the

surprising," will selections ranging from sacred to secular, classical to folk.

The Philharmonia Chorale will perform a Mass in G Major by Schubert as well as folk songs by Brahms.

Folk songs are the focal point of the youth choir's offering, and its members will be singing in a variety of languages.

The concert is set for 8 p.m. this Sunday. Tickets are \$12 and \$10.

Father's

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