

Painting meets poetry in new gallery show

Poetry by John Degen and paintings by James Walke work in both harmony and juxtaposition in a new show at the Latcham Gallery in downtown Stouffville.

Mr. Walke explores the process by which former industrial warehouses in the city are transformed into high-end lofts.

Mr. Walke was "intrigued by the crude drama and implied violence of these sites," Latcham Gallery curator Maura Broadhurst said.

Some of the photos Mr. Walke made as visual guides for the paintings are included in the exhibition. Walke's works are shown side by side with the poetry of John Degen, which is displayed on hanging panels as fine art pieces in their own right.

Viewers of the exhibition will be moved to reflect on the relationship between the paintings and poems and think about how one reads paintings or views poetry.

This exhibition is sponsored by Cook Canada Inc. of Stouffville.

The exhibition continues at the Latcham Gallery, 6240 Main St., Stouffville, until Sunday, March 23. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. For further information phone 905-640-8954.

Classic Scoop patrons donate to hospital

Four months' worth of tips at Da Classic Scoop have been transformed into more than \$1,000 worth of lifesaving equipment for Markham Stouffville Hospital's emergency room.

Da Classic Scoop's owners are hoping to triple that donation next year.

Shortly after co-owners Mario Greco and Frank Cammisa reopened their funky 1950s cafe at the corner of Main Street and Hwy. 48 in Ringwood last fall, they noticed people were leaving them tips — something they weren't used to at their fast food business in Thornhill's Promenade Mall.

Mr. Cammisa suggested, "Why don't we give it away?" The partners decided to put out a jar for donations to the local hospital.

The owners earmarked the donations towards emergency room equipment "because emergency seems to need it more than anywhere else," Mr. Greco said.

After several years as a 1950s style ice cream parlour surrounded by classic cars, The Da Classic Scoop closed for five years, while the owners concentrated on their business in Thornhill. After eight years, they sold the Thornhill business and decided to come back to Stouffville.

"We are here to stay," Mr. Greco said. Now their former ice cream business has added an Italian-style eatery serving everything from all day breakfasts and veal parmigiana on a bun to espresso and Cappuccino — and customers are still leaving their change in the donation jar for Markham Stouffville Hospital.

Triathlete had heart for foundation

Musselman's Lake's Rob Durnford swam, biked 180 km and then ran 42 km to gather more than \$2,800 in donations for the Jennifer Ashleigh Foundation, which supports critically and chronically children.

Just before the end of his 16-hour competition last summer, he made a small detour to scoop up his little baby son, Jaden, to triumphantly walk the last 150 meters to the finish line.

The foundation was started in 1990 by Norman Clements, owner of National

OUR TOWN

HANNELORE VOLPE



ROB DURNFORD AND JADEN

Sports stores and Stouffville's Country Market. His granddaughter, Jennifer Ashleigh, lived for only six months before succumbing to spinal muscular atrophy. The disease also claimed her younger sister, Danica, two years later.

The foundation provides funds for such things as transportation and accommodation expenses for families with children in hospital for operations such as organ transplants.

It provided a computer for a 10 year old with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and money for tutors so hospitalized children don't fall behind in their school-work.

Mr. Durnford entered the Ironman competition at Lake Placid, New York this past summer along with 2,000 others. Many of them were "very fit looking," he said. It was his second Ironman competition.

He found training difficult with the arrival of his son, Jaden, just six weeks earlier, but still managed to put in between 12 and 20 hours per week.

As the event rolled ever closer, the 37-year-old stepped up his endurance training by going on bike rides lasting four to seven hours and running for up to four hours at a stretch.

Although he's probably not entering the Ironman competition this year, his next goal is to compete in the Ironman Canada within the next few years.

Mr. Durnford credits his fellow employees at Oracle Corporation Canada in Mississauga for coming up with a large portion of the funds that will be donated to the Jennifer Ashleigh Foundation.

All of the donations go directly to help the families and children in need.

High school students can work in Quebec

Local high school students can apply to spend six weeks in Quebec this summer — at no cost.

The federal government's Summer Work Student Exchange Program places 16 and 17 year olds, who are returning to school in the fall, with a host family in Quebec and arranges for them to work with a non-profit organization there.

The program runs early July to mid-August. Each participating federal riding in Quebec exchanges 10 students, five with a riding in Ontario and five with a riding in the Maritimes.

All travel expenses are paid by the program. Students can improve their French, gain work experience in Quebec and learn more about French Canadian culture.

The program started in 1996 with 40 participants. In 2002, that number jumped to 1,200 exchange students, supervised by 160 university students in their role as co-ordinators of the program.

Stouffville's Lindsay Sherban, the Oak Ridges Riding co-ordinator, is in the process of presenting the program to all the secondary schools in the rid-

ing, which takes in Richmond Hill, Whitchurch-Stouffville and northern Markham.

Between six and 10 students will be selected from the applicants.

Applications should be sent in as soon as possible. Applications are available by emailing lsherban@sympatico.ca or by phoning 905-640-4584.

TIP OF THE WEEK

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10/02

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