

Light up the holidays:

Tips for making your house merry and bright



With proper planning and the development of a focal point, a professional-looking outdoor lighting scheme for the holidays is easier to create than you may think.

(MS) — When the holidays approach, visions of colorful lights dance in many a homeowner's head. But, when it comes down to it, decorating the exterior of a house for the holidays can be overwhelming and, sometimes, with hit or miss results.

"There are so many wonderful new holiday lights and accessories available today, it's like being in a candy store," says Melissa Birdsong, a trend and design director. "Turning all those options into a cohesive design that complements your home and creates a warm welcome for friends and family requires a bit of planning."

To help you get started, here are some useful tips:

- Plan ahead. Do a rough sketch of your property, including the front of your house, available posts, trees, window moldings, doors, etc. that can be easily decorated. If

other sides of your house are visible and should be decorated, do a separate sketch. Indicate the location of electrical outlets.

- Develop a focal point. Usually, the front door is a good focal point. Work with your family to determine colors and theme. For an even more coordinated approach, consider what your neighbors are doing, and plan complementary designs.

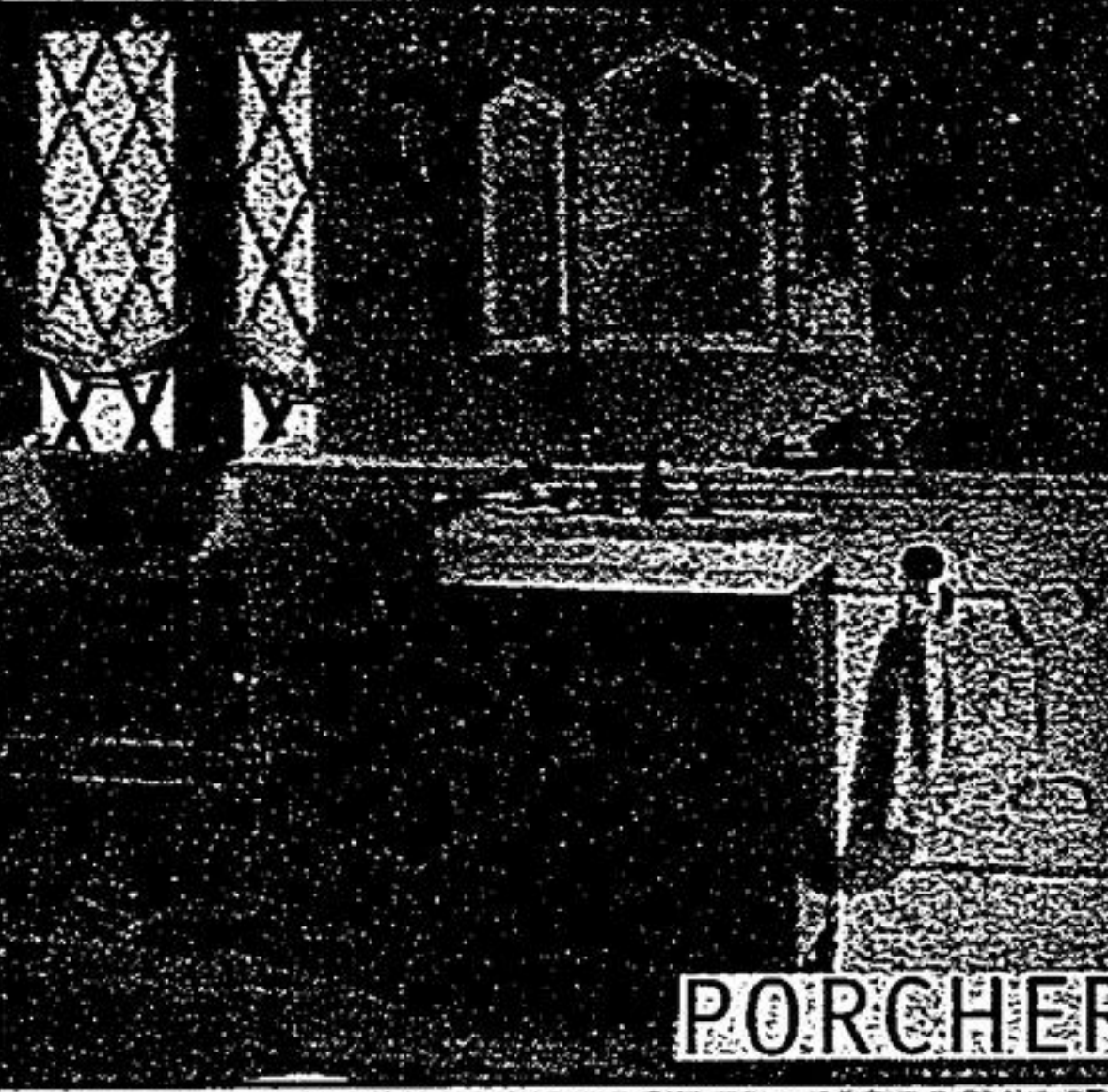
- Determine how you want to decorate other areas of the property. They should harmonize with the focal point. For example, a huge red Santa can look lonely on a front lawn without decorations. Try adding lights to the house or nearby shrubbery. If the front door is the focal point, lead your visitors to it with a row of candy canes, small illuminated trees or other accessories that fit your theme.

Please see USE A SKETCH, page 11

Bath & Kitchen Centre
Bath & Kitchen Showroom



Your Source For Quality & Design

The only registered American Standard Showroom for Markham & Richmond Hill

PORCHER

Ask about our approved bathroom contractor referral service

American Standard **Sottini**

FAUCETS, WHIRLPOOL TUBS, AIR TUBS, SHOWER STALLS, BEAUTIFUL BATHROOM CABINETS, HIGH QUALITY KITCHEN SINKS

HUGE SELECTION ON SALE

OVER 10 YEARS SERVICE EXCELLENCE

COME AND SEE OUR STATE-OF-THE-ART SHOWROOM

16th Ave. N

16th Ave. S

Kennedy Rd.

McCowan Rd.

Markham Rd.

Sheppard Ave. E.

HOURS

Mon - Fri: 10am to 7pm

Thurs - Fri: 10am to 8pm

Saturday: 10am to 6pm

Sunday: 12pm to 6pm

5151 Hwy. 7, Unit #4 (at McCowan)

(Opposite Markham Mall (south side), Markham)

905-940-6147

Now There's More...



Bonnie Stern is back with more HeartSmart recipes. They're nutritious and delicious! Available at your local Heart and Stroke Foundation Office.



This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist & Sun

INVITATION - OIL PAINTING EXHIBITION



Sylvio Gagnon 2004, *Charlevoix*, oil on canvas 24" x 30"

During the next few weeks, art amateurs will have the opportunity to see Gagnon in action on Main Street in Unionville, where he will capture the spirit of the place on canvas. It's a happy coincidence, since Unionville is celebrating its 150th anniversary and the Tribute to Kathleen continues until Dec. 31. Nearby, at the Kathleen Gormley McKay Art Centre, he will be showing his recent oils. The exhibition runs from Nov. 25-28 and Dec. 2-5. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Sunday opening is at 12 noon). Extended hours will apply on Friday, December 3rd to celebrate Olde Tyme Christmas Week. Visits to the gallery are free and everyone is welcome.

Sylvio Gagnon lives in Ottawa and can be reached at:
Tel: 613-235-6415 studio
Tel: 613-290-6372 mobile
Email: sgagnon@cyberus.ca
Web: www.cyberus.ca/~sgagnon

Sylvio Gagnon is a "plein air" painter in the full sense of the word. On any given day, rain, snow or shine, he'll set up his easel and make a beautiful landscape his subject on a canvas. He started painting 30 years ago and for the past 12, he has devoted all his time to painting.

What drives him to the brush and the canvas?

"I want to record and share the beauty of life," the 65-year-old artist from Northern Ontario says. "I also like the sense of accomplishment and happiness that painting gives me. My artistic mission is to create images that reveal the beauty of life in all its forms, particularly those in nature. I'm most comfortable working outdoors, even in the winter. Being outdoors helps inspire me. When I combine my passion for painting with my love of the outdoors, I become a child again, spontaneous, creative and happy."

In the art world, he often gets asked if he's related to Clarence Gagnon (1881-1942). He is indeed, but to find the connection, you must climb up the family tree by at least four generations. If, instead, you look at his painting entitled *Charlevoix*, it's easy to see that this Gagnon is related not only in name but also in talent.

Interestingly, Gagnon probably looks more like Fred Varley (1781-1873). To that end, John Ryerson, director of the Varley Art Gallery (VAG), invited Gagnon to impersonate Varley and do a public demo at the Tribute to Kathleen fund raising event held at the VAG last April.

Gagnon is featured regularly on television. He's appeared on many art related television programs at the CBC, ROGERS Television, CTV/ARTV, TFO Ontario and TV Rennes (France). His goal is to demystify art by painting public demos. He finds that outdoor or, as he puts it, "plein air painting" is helpful in achieving this goal because of the interaction with the public.

True to his great sensibility towards nature, Gagnon returns to paint in his childhood region in Northern Ontario every spring. His long time Ojibwa friend, Fred Neegan, guides him in his canoe to remote places where no painter has ever set an easel. To permanently record the location of these pristine places after he paints them, he takes a GPS reading to identify the precise location.