

COMING UP: Nineteen artists in 19th Lemonville show

# Banker rediscovers joy of art

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
sbolan@yrmg.com

When Gerald Graham first attended the University of Windsor, it was as a fine arts major. But the school's policy that students must take electives outside their general realm of interest derailed his artistic career.

Mr. Graham took an economics course and realized he really liked it. So much so, he switched his major from fine arts to business.

"I even had to give up an instructor's position. It was just something I wanted to do," the long-term Whitchurch-Stouffville resident said.

Flash-forward a few decades and Mr. Graham is now retired from the investment banking industry and getting ready to show his paintings at this year's Lemonville Group of Artists Annual Art Show and Sale, May 5 and 6.

Mr. Graham said it was "surprisingly easy" for him to pick up a brush and paint after about 40 years away from the canvas.

"I wasn't sure it would come back, but it's a bit like riding a bike. You never forget," he said.

In getting back into the art world, Mr. Graham took lessons from artists in Newmarket and Unionville. Last fall, he joined the Lemonville Group of Artists.

"He gives a different perspective," said Pamela Wright, head of public relations for

the group.

Although the group is open to anyone, no matter their age or gender, except for one man many years ago, Ms Wright said it unintentionally morphed into a women's group. That is, until Mr. Graham's arrival.

"He's kind of a breath of fresh air. We're not all talking women's talk," she said.

"It gives more balance to the group and to the art show as well," Ms Wright said.

This is the group's 19th annual show and sale and there are, coincidentally, 19 members in the group, all of whom are showing their work.

Everything from landscapes to figure work and a bit of abstract art will be available for sale at the show, in large and small sizes.

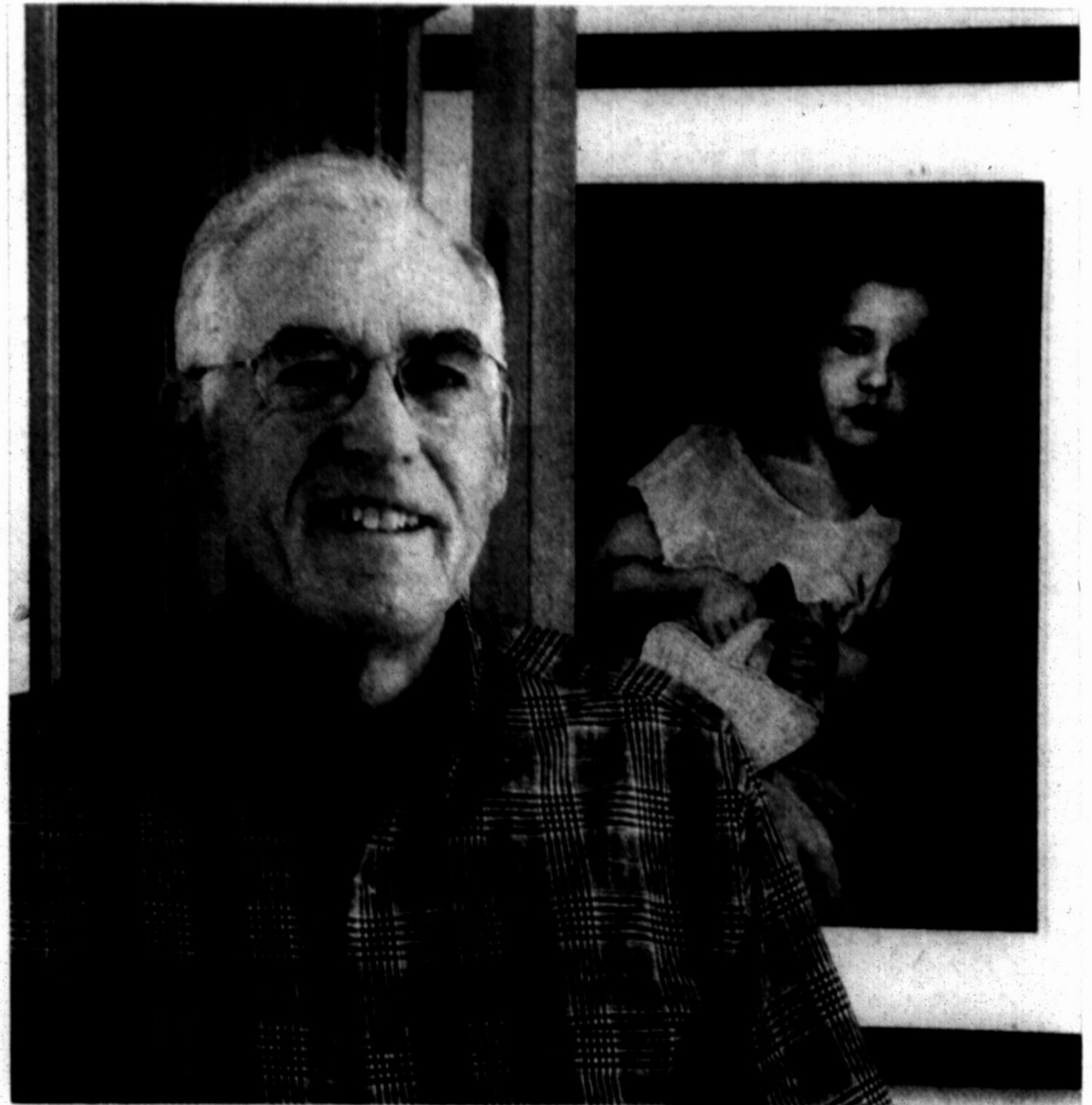
"It should suit most everybody," she said.

Although attendance has been good in previous years, Ms Wright said last year was particularly healthy for sales.

"Since the recession, people have been coming out but the selling has been down. ... I guess people are tired of the recession. They just want to get on with their lives," she said.

The show and sale takes place at the Lemonville Community Centre, 13453 McCowan Rd., just south of Bloomington Road, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

For more information on the show and the group, go to [www.lemonvillegroupofartists.com](http://www.lemonvillegroupofartists.com)



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Ballantrae-area resident Gerald Graham will be one of the exhibitors at this year's Lemonville Group of Artists annual show, May 5 and 6. Behind him is his work, The Flower Girl.

19, Southville Sun-Tribune ■ www.yorkregion.com ■ Thursday, Apr. 26, 2012

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