

August at Latcham Gallery

By Maura Broadhurst

As you continue to enjoy your summer in Stouffville, we hope you will make the Latcham Gallery one of your destinations.

Throughout August we are presenting an exhibition entitled *Threads*, which brings together paintings by Stouffville artist Malgorzata Pienkowski and mixed media work by Toronto artist Gordana Olujic Dasic. Although Pienkowski creates abstract paintings and Olujic Dasic creates more representational work, their art shares a sensitivity and a motivation.

Both look at struggle and opposition in human relationships based on personal experiences, but ones that are common to many of us. Through the dichotomies we experience in ourselves and in our relationships, they find resolve and even humour.

Pienkowski expresses this through line, colour and painting processes that involve painstaking repetition. Olujic Dasic uses more simple line drawings, often sewn or printed on paper to create minimal images (hands, generic figures, a

boat) and uses brief text to give us clues to a bigger story.

Despite the difficult personal issues tackled in their work, the artists employ a playfulness that allows the viewer to enjoy the work while still considering their larger message. The artists' reception is on Thursday, Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. Both artists will be at the gallery and everyone is invited. It is your chance to see the exhibition with friends, meet the artists and speak to them about their work and art-making practices. We hope you will join us.

Also in August, the gallery's popular summer art camp continues. There are two weeks of camp; session six for 10 to 15 year olds and session seven for 7 to 11 year olds. We are very happy to welcome Meghan Monaghan, a creative, versatile and lively instructor who understands teens and pre-teens, to lead the teen week of camp this year.

As a young artist herself, she will introduce campers to contemporary art concepts that they will not have come across in school before - and she knows how to keep things fun as well as educational. Meghan has a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from OCAD, where she won the OCAD medal for

drawing and painting in 2006.

Uxbridge artist Vanessa Perry returns to the gallery for the final week of camp. Past participants will know Vanessa to be extremely creative and personable, leading campers through fun activities that result in very accomplished works of art in a variety of media. If you are interested in joining us for either of these weeks, please call the gallery at 905-640-8954.

This fall the Latcham Gallery will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Please visit our website at www.latchamgallery.ca and check next month's paper for more details about this celebration!



Memory Fades by Stouffville artist Malgorzata Pienkowski is among the artwork featured in the August Latcham Gallery Exhibiton, *Threads*.

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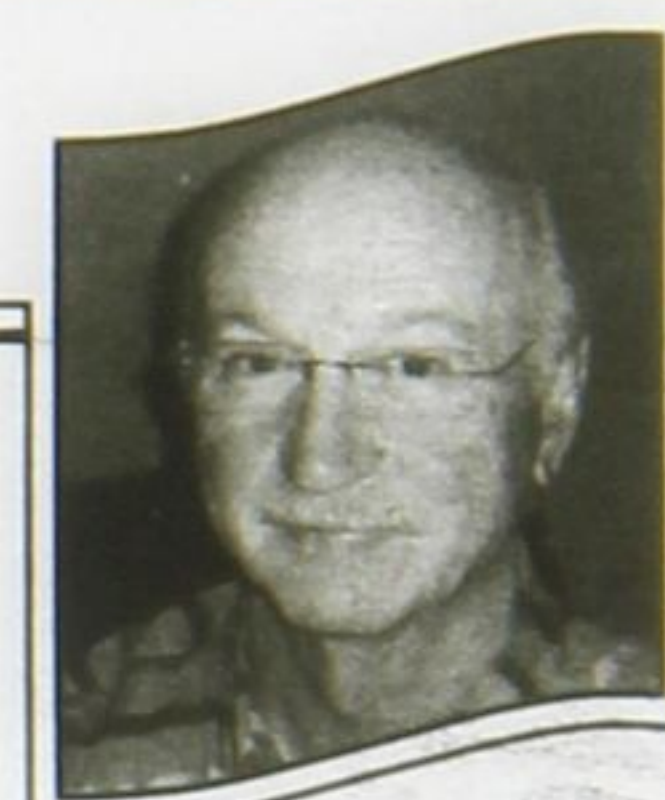
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Rear-View Mirror

Vivian Village

By Maurice Smith

Since its earliest days, the hub of community life revolved around an area with Main Street at its core, and in the late 1800s the then Village of Stouffville was as lively as it is today. However, during the lumber boom between 1860 and 1895, the community surrounding Highway 48 and Vivian Road was at least as busy as the village itself.

Giant white pine was being harvested in the vicinity, with most of the work controlled by a gentleman named Robert McCormick. He and his wife, Elizabeth, moved to the area from their home in New York in 1854, and thereafter not much happened in the area without his involvement.

Mr. McCormick became fondly known as "The father of Vivian village." In addition to his lumber interests, he controlled the local railway station and general store, and he and Elizabeth were always at the centre of social and cultural life in the community. Records indicate that he owned or had jurisdiction over more than half the land and timber rights in the area, and he employed hundreds of men in his lumber camps and saw mills. Remember there was no such thing as power tools or chain saws in this era.

To assist the local farmers and families in his employ, he had a one-room schoolhouse built on a piece of property he owned east of Highway 48, located at what is now 5582 Vivian Road. Children from local farms and lumber camps travelled along the horse and buggy trails to the schoolhouse. They had their own small baseball diamond in the yard, around which the 40 students attending each day could run and play. Today you can see where the baseball field was located, and although the schoolhouse was closed in 1954, the building is still in use as a private residence.

Mr. McCormick was a member of the municipal council for 14 years and served as a Justice of the Peace for about 20 years. He and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a grand social on the Easter weekend of 1894. The party took place in their large home and the hotel located at the crossroads in Vivian. With more than 800 people in attendance, you can envision the continuous hustle and bustle as a stream of horses and buggies arrived and departed the scene.

Shortly after Robert McCormick's death in 1906, the family decided to change its name from McCormick to McCormack. Current members of the clan believe it had something to do with their religious affiliation, but whatever the reason, all generations since Robert and Elizabeth have been known as McCormack.

Those who are familiar with the television program Will and Grace will no doubt be interested to learn that Eric McCormack, who plays Will, is the great-great grandson of Robert and Elizabeth McCormick of Vivian.

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