

The kindest cut of all

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville Free Press

This fall, Victoria and Erin Wagg had their beautiful tresses cut off to provide wigs for children who are losing their hair during chemotherapy treatments.

Victoria, 10, was inspired by programs she saw on television. "I saw tons of kids on TV that have lost their hair through cancer, so I decided to donate my hair," she said. "I made the decision, and then the first time I didn't want to cut my hair, but then I cut it."

When six-year-old Erin heard about Victoria's plans, she was determined not to be left out. Erin, who entered Grade 1 at Glad Park Public School in September, decided it would be fun to start the year with a whole new look. "I wanted it to be a surprise so no one would know me," she said. Before she started school, "I lost my hair and I lost my front tooth," she said, with a gap-toothed grin.

The girls' decision to help other kids provided another, unexpected bonus. "I was excited because when I had long hair it really hurt to brush it," explained Erin. Their mother, Lori, took Victoria and Erin to Angel Hair for Kids, a hair replacement studio that supplies wigs for children whose families are in financial difficulties.

"We went to this office in Mississauga where people go to get their wigs. We dropped off our pony tails and saw the room," said Victoria. "It's where they go with their parents and pick out the style of the wig," Erin explained. It takes 10 to 12 pony tails to make a single wig, noted Lori.

During their tour of the studio, "we saw a really, really old braid," recalled Erin. "It was about 30 inches long and someone found it in their attic," said Victoria. "So they decided to keep it," added Erin. Both girls agreed that they would willingly donate their hair in future to help other children.

And the girls' donation inspired Lori to make a commitment of her own. "After the girls made their donation, I decided to get on the bandwagon and signed up for next year's Princess Margaret Weekend to End Breast Cancer," she said.

For more information on Angel Hair for Kids visit www.aha-studio.com/angel.htm or call 1-888-331-9928.



Victoria and Erin Wagg exchange a hug. The Stouffville sisters later donated their long braids to provide wigs for children with cancer.



Erin and Victoria display their braids at Angel Hair for Kids in Mississauga.

Latcham Gallery Holds Arts Raffle

Local artists donate artwork to raise funds

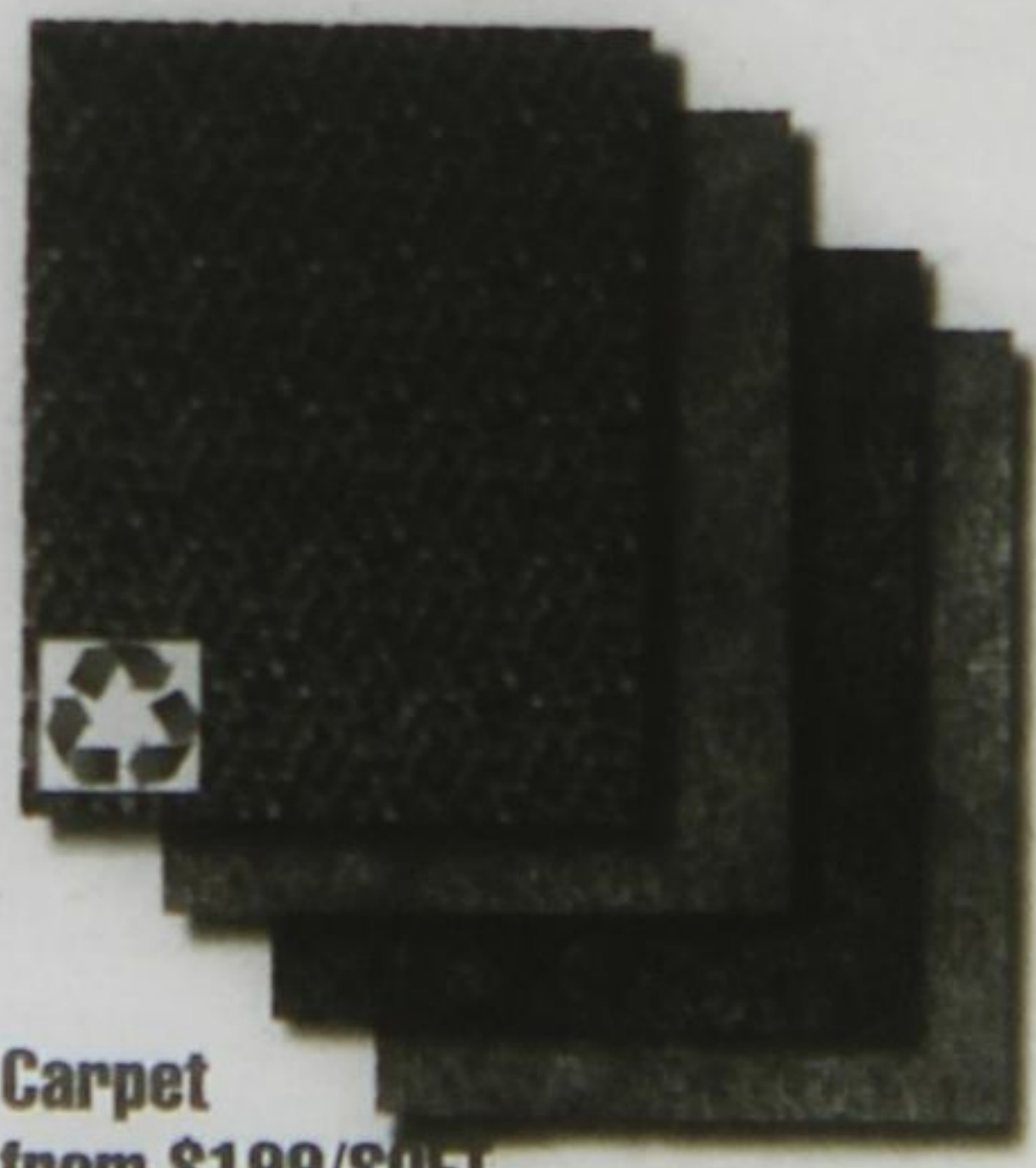


This beautiful painting by acclaimed local artist James Bessey is among the works up for raffle at the Latcham Gallery.

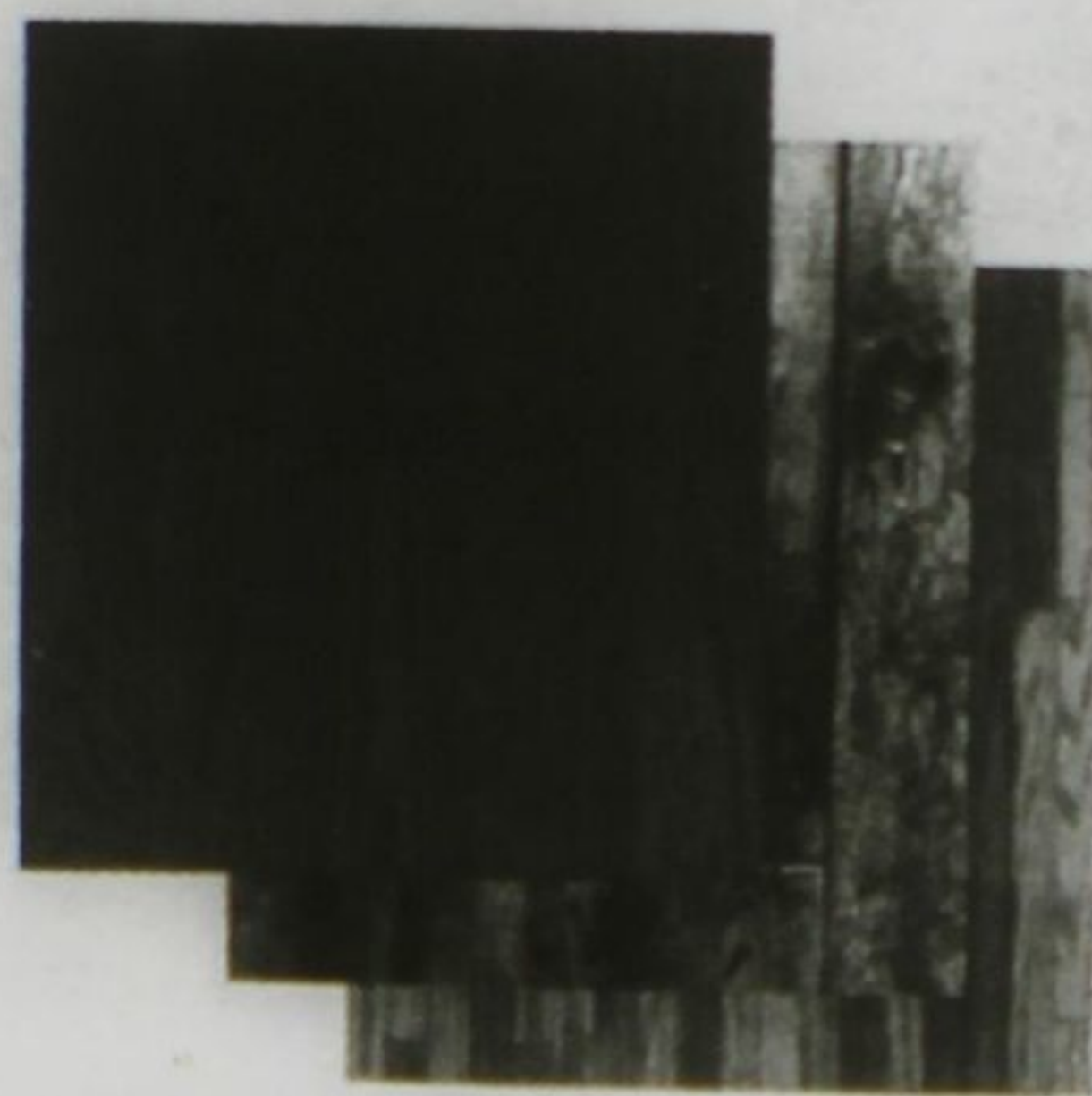
Five talented area artists have each generously donated an original artwork for a special fundraising raffle.

The proceeds will go towards the cost of gallery programs. Only 500 tickets will be sold at \$10 each or three for \$25. Ticket holders have a one in 500 chance of winning a painting by James Bessey, Jennifer Onlock or Ray McNeice, a graphite drawing by Steve Noorhof, or a teapot, cream, sugar and mug set by Jennifer Creegan.

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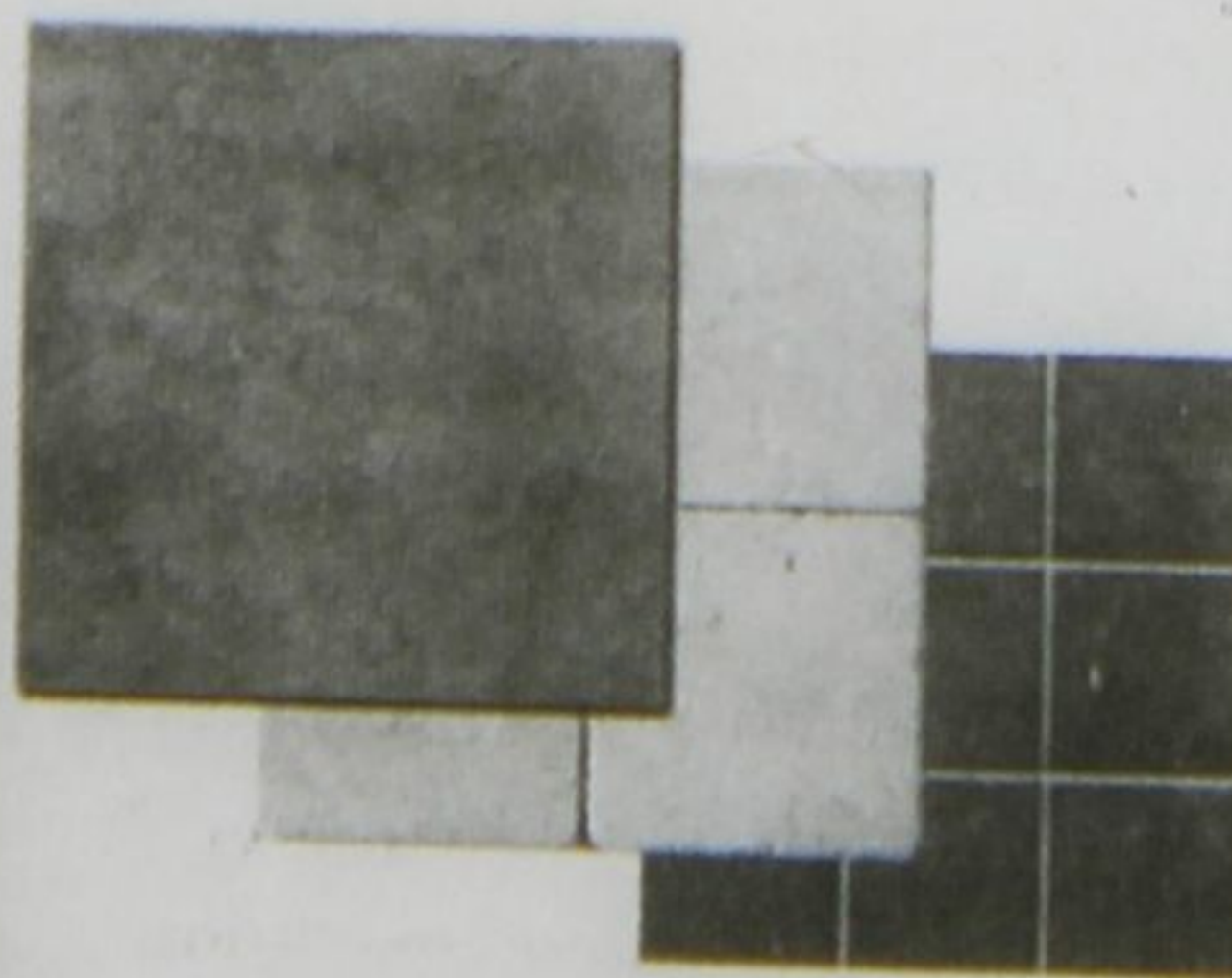
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