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Secret Lives Of Stouffville Studio Tour Artists

By Hannelore Volpe
 Stouffville Free Press



Tour artist Margaret Grandison at work on another "Happy House".



Artist Ray McNeice basing-in a new painting for the Studio Tour.

The Stouffville Studio Tour is just around the corner - and with it comes a glimpse into the 'secret' lives of some of the artists.

Keep your calendar free for the weekend of Oct. 17th and 18th. This annual event invites you into the homes and studios of local artists, giving you a chance to see where their art comes to life.

Look for the Studio Tour signs as you travel through our glorious fall landscapes to visit artists in town and in rural areas. The studios are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. You'll see wood sculptures, pottery, oil painting and water colours, porcelain and glass jewellery, sculpture and totems, masks and a lot more.

And while you're admiring the artists' work, don't forget to ask them about their 'secret' lives.

You'll never guess which artist is a WWII veteran after serving in the air force or who became a professional golfer playing on tour in the U.S. One artist was brave enough to jump out of a plane - and live to tell you the tale. An 8 by 20 foot mural in Cuernavaca, Mexico highlights the environmental concerns of another local resident. For the past 25 years, one person has been using her art and other means to help people regain their communication skills after they have suffered a stroke or head injury. If you see outstanding antiques anywhere, it may be the artist who refinished this type of furniture for many years. You may recognize one young artist from the Latham Gallery where she worked for a couple of summers.

This year there are 31 artists in 20 locations scattered throughout Stouffville and Ballantrae. Four artists are first-time tour participants. They are Sara West, who does airbrushing, wall and vehicle murals, and people and pet portraits; Daniella Boerhof working in metal sculptures and the husband-and-wife team of Vladimir Lopatin and Olena Lopatina with wood sculptures by him and oil paintings by her.

There is no admission fee and parking is readily available.

You could win a \$200 gift certificate to buy a piece of unique art from one of the tour artists. The ballots for this free draw are at all tour locations.

You may already have seen a few of the artists' works at monthly art shows at For the Love of Jo, a local coffee house on Stouffville's Main Street. This long-time studio tour sponsor also shows a preview of the artists' works during September and October.

Colourful Stouffville Studio Tour brochures are available at many local merchants and other locations around town.

For the tour map and other information, check out the website at stouffvillestudiotour.com

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Meet Sir John A. Macdonald

by Hannelore Volpe
 Stouffville Free Press



Sir John A. Macdonald and Lady Agnes are to host a commemorative five course Victorian dinner November 14 at the Whitechurch-Stouffville Museum.

Sir John A. Macdonald is coming to town Saturday, Nov. 14.

Canada's first Prime Minister and his lovely wife, Lady Agnes, will host an evening of entertainment, complete with a five-course Victorian-inspired dinner, at the Whitechurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre starting at 7 p.m.

Come earlier, however, for pre-dinner libations at 6:15 p.m.

The evening commemorates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Canada's first Prime Minister and will re-create the menu from an 1881 banquet held in Toronto in his honour.

Sir John A. (whose real identity cannot be revealed at this time) will give a speech made by his original counterpart in 1887 during the 20th anniversary of the Dominion of Canada and the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

Lady Agnes will share her diary entries of what life was like in the Victorian age and in this new country. There will be a number of surprises throughout the evening.

The museum is located at 14732 Woodbine Ave., at Vandorf Road.

Pre-registration is required. Tickets are \$55 plus HST per person and there is a cash bar. Log on to townofws.ca/museum or call 905-727-8954 for tickets and more information.