



When works by 21 Ontario children's book illustrators were chosen for a display in Bologna, Italy, last month, creations by Mississauga artist Warabe Aska were among those shown. Aska, 45, has a work-

shop in his Lorne Park home, but spends much of his time travelling for inspiration. This summer he's off to Africa for work on his latest book, *Aska's Animals*.

Aska, Warabe

Staff photo by Fred Look

# Writing comes 'naturally' to Aska

By STEPHANIE INNES  
Staff Reporter

If there is ever to be a book written about Mississauga's future public gardens, Warabe Aska is the man for the job.

Aska, 45, is a Lorne Park artist who specializes in illustrations for children's books. His 1984 book *Who Goes to the Park* was specifically modelled after Toronto's High Park and in 1985 it became the first children's book ever to win a City of Toronto Book Award.

Aska's illustrations for *Who Goes to the Park*, and the 1989 book *Seasons* were among works by 21 Ontario children's book illustrators chosen for the recent Bologna Book Fair in Italy.

The exhibit, "Canada at Bologna," featured 118 illustrations by 43 Canadians.

Aska turned to the world of nature, and began reproducing his perceptions with oil paints on canvases.

His artwork first appeared in a book published in 1973 entitled *Discovering Japan in 80 Days* — a book still popular in his native country. Other projects followed for Aska, including one-man exhibitions in Japan and England, and a series of Japanese children's books.

In addition to writing *Who Goes to the Park*, which was Aska's first work written in English, he wrote and illustrated *Who Hides in the Park* in 1986, a book set in Vancouver's Stanley Park.

The latest project for Aska is a series of animal books, the first of which is entitled *Aska's Animals*. Planned for completion in September 1991, the animal illustrations show Aska's imaginative flair — the image cast on water by a row of zebras becomes a piano that a little girl plays, and in another picture, sheep in a field ascend into the sky

Aska's WARABE  
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