

PEEL
Dioa.
Bk.

BAGNELL, DIANE

Arts & Entertainment

Nov. 23-90 MN

Still Peel Bioq Screenshot

'Paint anything' artist shows her stuff Sunday

By JANET KEOWN

Special to The Mississauga News

Streetsville artist Diane Bagnell is a committed conservationist who will be showing her watercolor paintings in her home this Sunday.

"I'll paint anything anyone asks me to paint," she says. "Everything from a very formal still life violin set on a table with lace, to rubber boots, to scenes from Georgian Bay.

"I've sold a lot of paintings of historic houses and barns that are no longer standing to people who have bought the property and want to hang on to their heritage."

Bagnell will have 40 framed pictures for sale on at her home on 1331 Nocturn Ct. at Mississauga Rd. and Indian Rd. this Sunday between noon and 5 p.m. She will also have about 10 unframed pictures, and Christmas cards for sale. There are two designs for the Christmas cards. One is of poinsettias and the other has a horse and foal with snow covered mountains in the background.

Ninth annual show

This is Bagnell's ninth annual show at her home. She's past president of the Mississauga Artists workshop, has entered at least one picture in the Visual Arts, juried show, and last year was one of only five of the 300 artists in the show to have two pictures in it. She also teaches part-time at the Springbank Visual Arts Centre because she loves to teach and can't earn a living from her art alone.

She won't sell her paintings in galleries because "They take 40 to 50 per cent of the price of the picture and there's nothing left for the artist. They also don't cover framing."

She gets most of her pictures frames with non-acidic mats and sealed in glass. She will have some unframed pictures at the show but will not be responsible if the

paper fades to yellow in ten years. She's selling the unframed pictures to keep costs down. The retail price to frame a 30 X 32 inch picture is \$200.

"I'll have paintings in every price range," she says. "I believe original art should be available for everyone."

She also donates some of her paintings to community charity groups to help them raise money. These groups include Credit Valley hospital, Big Sisters of Peel, Streetsville United Church, and Ducks Unlimited. Last year one of her paintings sold for \$2,200 in an auction for Ducks Unlimited, and the year before a smaller painting sold for \$1,700.

Her pet project is restoring Mississauga's heritage. "I'm a real preservationist. I can't stand to see people destroy this country the way they are."

One of the paintings in her personal collection is of the Creditview bog as it was in the fall ten years ago. She's painted the picture based on a snapshot she took then, and then embellished the picture with her own memories of the area.

She expects her painting of the Bailey house on Credit View and Eglinton that was nearly torn down to sell quickly.

Her newly renovated home is filled with Victorian and Canadiana antiques. She has just formally incorporated her own business called "Unique Surroundings." The business combines the sale of her pictures and is also a renovation business. She does consultations and will hire professionals to renovate people's homes on any scale, whether it's adding kitchens, tearing a room back to the bare walls, or merely wallpapering the house; and she'll do it so it won't be necessary to buy new furniture afterwards.

"I've been asked by a developer to design some model homes for them because some of the interior decorators are getting so high tech people are refusing to buy the homes because they can't afford to decorate them the way the designers have," she says. "They'd have to buy new furniture."



Local artist and conservationist Diane Bagnell poses with two paintings which will be on display Sunday when she hosts a show at her Streetsville home.

Nov. 23-91 MN