

Starkness of winter inspires Applewood artist

Peel Bios

CALDWELL, Gil

6

By Chris Clay

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It's easy to feel inspired by the bitter cold of Canadian winter when you're soaking up the rays in sunny Florida and not freezing.

Applewood artist Gil Caldwell winters in Florida from January to March with his wife Betty and it was during his visit last year that his thoughts started to turn back to the winter that everyone back home in Mississauga was struggling through.

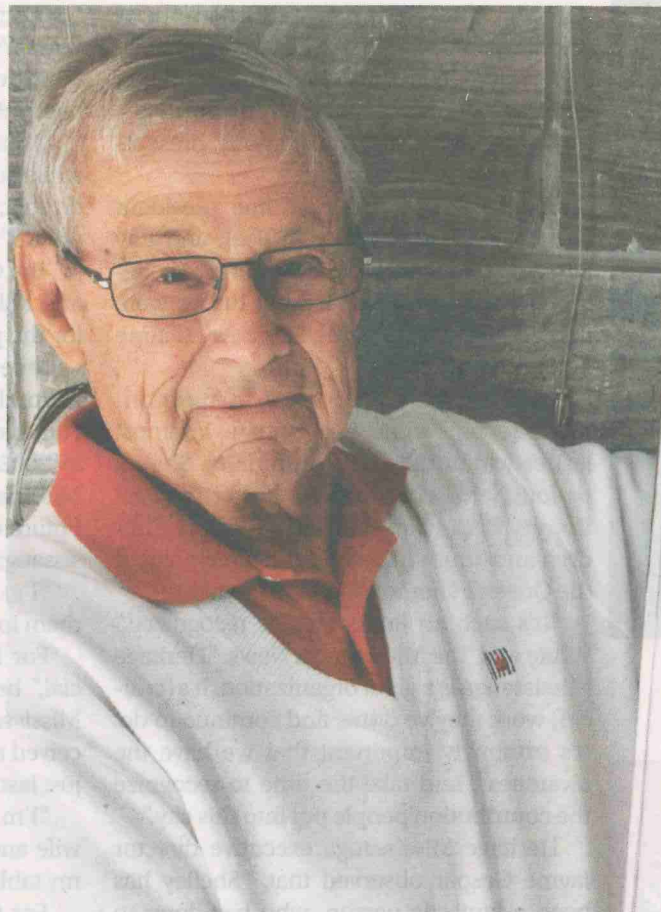
Caldwell was sitting on a balcony and staring out at the gently lapping waters of the Gulf of Mexico when he realized he had never created an exhibition of winter works.

Many of the other seasons have got his artistic attention in past exhibitions.

But, for some reason, and perhaps because he wasn't suffering through the cold, Caldwell realized it was time to focus on winter in his art.

His latest exhibition is entitled *Hibernus*, which is Latin for winter, and it continues through Sunday at Visual Arts Mississauga.

He has 20 watercolour pieces on display, many of which are done with the gouache technique that makes the paintings more opaque and less transparent.



Applewood artist Gil Caldwell is showing his exhibition of watercolours called *Hibernus* at Visual Arts Mississauga through Sunday, Nov. 20. Chris Clay/Metroland

"Truthfully, I enjoy the better weather," said Caldwell, 85, with a laugh. "But, I do like capturing the look after a snowfall."

To Caldwell, winter can be a dreamy time of year with snow dusting the trees and it's like

something out of fairy tale.

The retired vice-principal frequently hits the Ontario backroads in his car to take in the stark but still beautiful scenes that winter brings to nature.

Caldwell will be present at the

exhibition tomorrow from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Caldwell is a former winner of the Mississauga Arts Council's Visual Artist of the Year Award and an inductee into McMaster University's Alumni Gallery.

Over the years, he's been a member of the Meadowvale Art Group, White Oaks Art Group and the Mississauga Art Society.

For more, visit www.visual-artsmississauga.com.

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