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TOM CHATFIELD HANGING HIS WORK AT THE NEWPORT
His paintings have "an affinity to nature"

An Artist Who Brings Nature Alive With A Palette Knife

By BEN ANTAO

Of The Weekly PORT CREDIT — An artist with "a certain affinity to nature" is exhibiting some of his Canadian landscapes at the Newport hotel, Port Street, Port Credit.

Already a name in North American art circles, Toronto-born Tom Chatfield is a painter with the right instincts.

"I paint because I've got to — it's something I must do," he says.

"I've been painting for 25 years, but it's only within the last five years I've been selling any work," said the 45-year-old artist who lives in Oakville.

His landscapes have a rugged quality, a certain strength that Chatfield unmistakably succeeds in injecting into the canvas with his palette

knife. They seem sure to appeal both to the conservative and the avant garde clientele.

Chatfield feels, very much as poet Wordsworth felt in the late 18th century, a compulsive urge to go to nature and to work and to live amid nature.

Canada abounds in nature, has beautiful landscapes, he says. His regret is he can't get enough of it. "When I go back to some of my familiar sights, I find the place spoiled by sheets and sheets of steel. It's terrible what they've done."

Although he prefers to do his painting "on location," Chatfield could sketch, if he chose, from memory. But there's no substitute to depicting the scene on

the spot, when the impression is fresh and vivid. Art is great, but nature is greater, he feels.

Chatfield's impressionistic landscapes are on view this month at the Newport hotel, as part of the hotel's policy to exhibit each month a new artist.

Anne Prouty, the hotel's art co-ordinator and consultant, says the aim is to bring good art within easy view of residents in the area who might not have the time to visit galleries in Toronto.

She was very enthusiastic about Chatfield's work.

Chatfield sharpened his talents at Ontario College of Art, attending night classes for seven years. Confident, but

unassuming, he's now in the position of dictating his own terms. "There's no 'change this or that' anymore. They come to my terms," he said.

He's had seven one-man exhibitions, five of them in Sabot gallery in Yorkville, Toronto. His paintings have also been on display in galleries in Hamilton, Vancouver, Calgary and Buffalo. He said he's sold his work to people in Australia, France and the United States.

Recently he did a series of paintings about Algonoma, as guest of the Algonoma Central Railway. He said he was absolutely thrilled with his work there.

Chatfield is married with three children, and lives at 2063 Salvatore Boulevard, Oakville.