

# Artist is painting panes

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If you see a face looking at you through the window, don't panic.

It's probably Mississauga artist Gerry de Jong looking for a pane to paint.

The most recent featured artist at Springbank Gift Shop is working on a new collection: the historical windows of Mississauga.

So far, de Jong has recorded the windows at the Principal's Residence at Erindale College, at the Glen Erin Inn and at the Cawthra Elliot Estate.

"I love the reflections in glass," he said. "Especially old glass. It's not as even so it catches the light in interesting ways."

This is a departure for de Jong, an avid gardener, who usually favors landscapes and flowers in his paintings. His nature canvases have been displayed at the Springbank Gift Shop this month.

Born in The Netherlands, de Jong has lived here more than 25 years.

Chair of Visual Arts Mississauga (VAM), the group that built the Springbank centre, de Jong also teaches watercolor painting classes to adults at the facility.

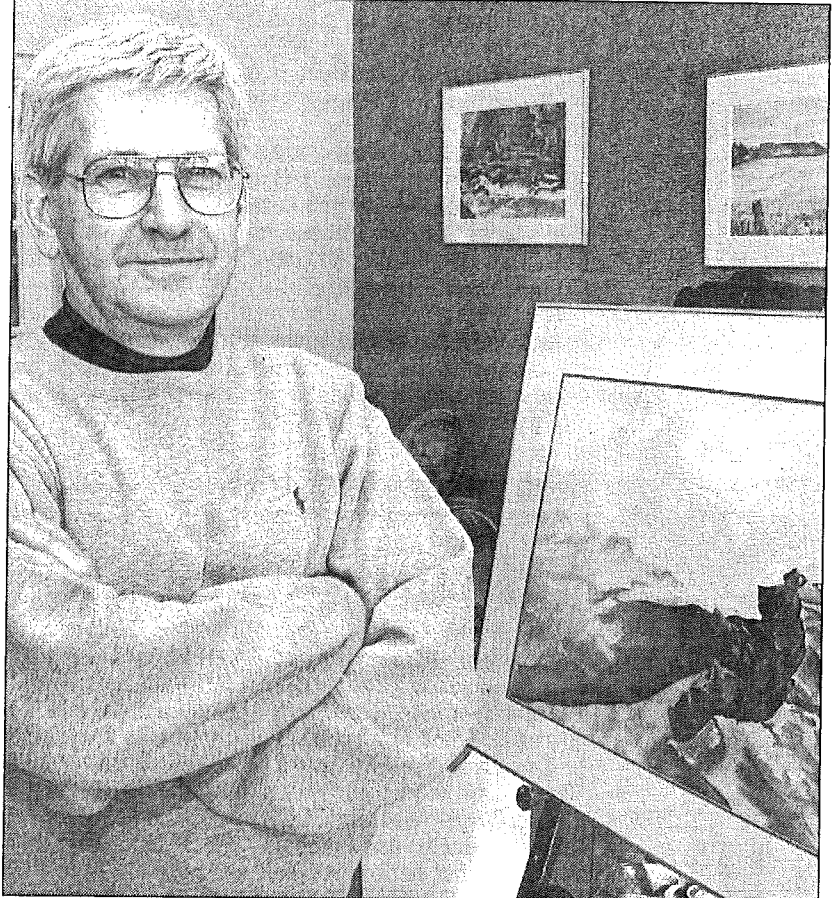
"The dream is to put an addition onto the centre to facilitate more classes and displays," said de Jong. "With the opening of the Living Arts Centre (LAC), this is all under review."

Some classes and shows have been moved to the more spacious LAC but de Jong doesn't see it as a threat to Springbank's future. "It just broadens the scope of visual arts in Mississauga," said de Jong, a graduate of Sheridan College's Fine Arts program. "People now have two choices for high-class instruction."

With all of his administrative concerns, how does he find time to paint? "I very carefully balance my time so I have time for art and time for my volunteer leadership roles," he said.

He has more free time these days since he retired from the Ministry of Finance.

"It may not seem compatible with art," he said. "But it kept me sane by doing something else as well."



Long-time Mississauga resident Gerry de Jong is working on a new collection: the historical windows of Mississauga. So far, he's painted the windows at the Principal's Residence at Erindale College, at the Glen Erin Inn and at the Cawthra Elliot Estate.

The artist thinks he picked just the right time to retire from his job in a currently controversial field.

"I was a property tax assessor for 33 years," said de Jong. Now that he's out of the rat race, de Jong intends to enjoy — and paint — the serene life.

"There's beauty in everything," said de Jong. "My work falls into the realm of just enjoying nature."

De Jong's unframed pieces are priced from \$30-40, framed paintings cost \$200-500.