

Peel Biog. - Fullerton, Ann

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Watercolor travelogue at Springbank

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Staff photo Fred Loek

Ann Fullerton's watercolors take us many places, such as Algonquin Park and Dorset, England. The streetscape above depicts Gold Hill in Shaftsbury and you can see it at the Springbank Visual Arts Centre Gift Shop, where Ann is the featured artist next month.

While most people see trip to the cottage as an excuse to relax, Ann Fullerton finds there is inspiration to work hard.

"Garden pathways, quaint cottages, sunlight reflected on a window pane ... my subjects seem to draw me to them," said the artist.

"I guess part of that is my English background ... all those big English gardens."

Fullerton brings those images of nature from Ontario's north a little closer to home as Springbank Gift Shop's featured artist throughout the month of September.

Fullerton was employed as an art director in the advertising industry when she moved to Applewood Acres 15 years ago.

Soon after, she rekindled an old love — watercolor painting.

"I've been painting seriously for about 10 years," she said.

Fullerton graduated from St. Lawrence College with an honors degree in fine art and graphic design. She made the switch from the corporate world to self-expression when her son was born 11 years ago.

"When I decided to stay at home and look after my child I also went after the other thing I love ... painting," she said.

Juggling her art and her duties as a new mom was a struggle at first, Fullerton said.

"As soon as he went down for a nap, I went to work," she said. "It was tough, though, because sometimes that wasn't a

moment I felt like working. You have to learn to adapt."

Her hard work paid off, however.

Fullerton's illustrations have appeared in several prominent publications including *Toronto Life* and *Canadian Gardening Magazine*.

A member of the Mississauga Watercolour Society since January, she also teaches watercolor workshops to various art groups in Toronto, Big Bay Point and Ancaster.

Fullerton said that while she no longer plans her creative schedule around a sleeping baby, some old habits die hard.

"My studio is in my basement," she said. "It's not glamorous, but it's handy."

Springbank Gift Shop is located at 3057 Mississauga Rd. The shop is open Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Call 828-8093.

Don't dress for dinner

The Harbourside Playhouse, located at 161 Lakeshore Rd. W., is currently presenting the comedy, *Don't Dress for Dinner*.

Performances are slated for Tuesday to Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Tickets cost \$24-\$15. Call the box office at 274-7345.