

Weekend show benefits charity

Nothing can stop Bernice

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
Staff

The first thing Bernice Kwong did after surviving a recent bout with pneumonia that led to congestive heart failure, was to arrange an art show.

The bubbly 68-year-old Chinese brush painter is well known as a tireless volunteer who makes her presence felt across Mississauga.

She and her husband, David, present their 8th annual Exhibit of Chinese Brush Paintings, this weekend (May 3-4) at Springbank Visual Arts Centre. Admission is free.

Bruce Heyland, honorary chair of the Living Arts Centre and Ian McCallum, the Living Arts Centre's president and CEO, will officially open the show Saturday at 11 a.m.

The show runs Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. both days at the Springbank Visual Arts Centre at 3057 Mississauga Rd.

For the sixth straight year, 15 per cent of the proceeds will be directed to Mississauga's new Living Arts Centre that opens in October.

Another 10 per cent will go to The Mississauga Hospital, for the eighth consecutive year.

The show will feature about 60 original, framed brush paintings done on double rice paper, most of them produced by Kwong herself. Her subject is nature.

Unfortunately, Kwong found herself a patient in The Mississauga Hospital for nearly two weeks early this year.

Later, as she struggled to regain her strength, Kwong found herself sleeping 22 hours a day. It's appropriate, then, that a new piece in her show is dubbed, *Longevity*.



Staff photo by Fred Loek

Chinese brush painter Bernice Louie Kwong and husband, David, host their 8th annual exhibit of Chinese brush paintings May 3-4 at Springbank Visual Arts Centre.

The work focuses on a fresh pine tree branch, the Chinese symbol of strength and worship, along with a crane, the symbol of long life.

"He's a young crane and he's mischievous. He's saying he's not going to get old, he wants to live it up," said Kwong. And, that's just what Kwong is up to, too.

She's demonstrating her work at the Mississauga Arts Council Arts Festival at Square One, Thursday, May 1 from 4-6 p.m.