

*Peel News* SAKHAVARZ, Alan  
**Wildlife artist Sakhavarz wins major award**  
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A Meadowvale resident and teacher of local artists has won one of the country's most prestigious art awards, the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print Competition.

The award puts Alan Sakhavarz in good company with the likes of famed wildlife painter Robert Bateman and, according to his contemporaries, Sakhavarz is pretty good company himself.

The self proclaimed environmentalist paints what he preaches — expansion and protection of wildlife and wildlife habitats.

His meticulously detailed portraits of bobcats, birds and species both common and exotic grace the walls of hundreds of galleries and private collections.

And he is mentor to as many aspiring artists who may one day emulate the painting of Arctic geese that earned him the coveted award last month.

The award winning painting selected from among 44 entries will be reproduced as the 10th Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp. As well, it will be reproduced as a limited edition print to be sold throughout North America.

Sakhavarz travels extensively, painstakingly researching his subjects in their natural habitat, Yellowstone Park and the Arctic tundra among the sources of his inspiration.



**SAKHAVARZ**

The artist explains the actual painting takes only three to four weeks. The preparation takes considerably longer.

"The field trips, the research, photography, sketching and composition take up a lot of time," said Sakhavarz, adding that his genre of painting is more than just art.

"Biology and science are also part of it and it's more than just decorative art," he said of his work that focuses on the exotic as well as the familiar.

"What may seem ordinary can become quite interesting if you look seriously at behavior," he observed of his well known painting of a group of sparrows.

Lesley Nembr, administrator for Visual Arts Mississauga, described Sakhavarz as a, "very colorful man," with a passion for his art.

She noted that his classes at Springbank Art Centre are not taught for the money.

"He does it because he likes teaching," she said of the man who has been drawing and painting since childhood.

"It's wonderful to have a person of his talent teaching right here in Mississauga," she said.