

# Trees are her hang-up

By CONNIE RAE

To Lynne Schumacher of Orenda Court, Brampton, painting forests is not only a way of making a living, it's a real hang-up.

The Toronto-born former student of Central Technical School started painting at the age of six, inspired by an uncle involved in the art of stained-glass window-making. But she didn't really start painting in earnest until her parents bought a cottage in Haliburton.

Like Tom Thompson, she "fell in love with the woods," and "the beautiful tranquility of nature."

"It's the closest you can come to God. It's a great feeling," says Lynne who brings her Haliburton sketches back to her Brampton dining room where she paints every spare minute.

With two small children, it's not always easy, but "thank heavens for Sesame Street."

She started painting for her own enjoyment and would have kept it all hidden in the closet, but her husband, Bruce, persuaded her to acquire an agent.

"I put so much into a painting, it bothered me to sell it," she said, "but now I find I don't mind. When people buy my work they are so enthusiastic I know they'll enjoy it."

Her manager, Terry W. Littlefield of Consultant Art Services, describes Lynn's work as "refreshingly different from the run-of-the-mill type of landscaping." She portrays a startling realism of color and texture," he says.

Lynne describes her work as "natural, realistic and very bold."

The 26-year-old mother who sells her work at prices ranging from \$300 to \$1,300 says she gave up on showing in private

galleries that always try to keep the prices low and take their share of commission.

An agent takes a commission, but he really cares about you, the artist, not just the money, she says.

As an indication that realism in art is becoming fashionable again, Lynne says she recently sold \$5,000 worth of paintings in a

Markham art show and all of it was unframed.

Naturally enough her forests object to being contained in frames. People request them without frames, she says.

For last weekend's show at Beth Tikvah synagogue at Bayview and Finch, regulations required that the pictures be framed.

"It cost me \$300 to

frame four pictures and I'm sure the frames won't stay on them," she added, anxious to get back to her trees.

Her work will appear at the Kiwanis Art Show at Clargreen Gardens in February.



Times photo by GORM LARSEN

Lynne Schumacher is hung up on trees. The 26-year-old will be exhibiting her work at the annual Clargreen gardens Kiwanis art show.

She's one of the lucky artists whose work people prefer without frames.