

She paints impulsively, when she feels like it

By PAT ZAMPERIN

Fay Sproule likes hiking, but she likes painting even more. Which explains why, during a hike with her daughter along the Bruce Trail, lugging knapsacks and various paraphernalia, Sproule suddenly decided she couldn't wait another moment.

"I stopped and said I had to paint right now," she says. "I couldn't wait a minute more." Daughter had then to take a forced rest while mom unpacked her painting utensils, got settled on a nearby log, and began painting.

That's the way Fay Sproule, a Mississauga resident paints, impulsively, only when she feels like it, and whenever the environment "gets her going".

Sproule is currently exhibiting 28 of her watercolors at Clarkson Lorne Park Library until the end of May. They include scenes of Mississauga and surrounding area, Lake Superior where Sproule often visits, the Rocky mountains and Spain.

But she doesn't have to travel far to be inspired. Just a short bike ride away she finds all the scenery she needs to put her in the mood; perhaps a neighbor's back yard adjoining a small wooded area.

Sproule exhibits only watercolors, her favorite medium.

"Watercolor is a fast medium . . . you can't overwork it," she says. "With an oil painting you can correct it if you want. With watercolors if you make a mistake you either tear it up and throw it away or do it on the other side."

Sproule's interest in painting, and particularly in watercolors, was "always" there, greatly nourished by an excellent watercolor teacher in high school.

She originally put her artistic talents to work as a commercial artist for an insurance company in Toronto, a job she enjoyed immensely for 10 years.

Now it's strictly a hobby which she does "for myself". To pursue her hobby and simultaneously expand her knowledge about the art while learning to paint better, she joined the Mississauga Artists' Workshop.

The workshop is the oldest art group in Mississauga, formed 22 years ago. It currently boasts a membership of approximately 30, some of whom belonged to the original group started in 1955. Sproule herself joined nine years ago.

Mississauga Artists' Workshop meets at Springbank Community Centre every Thursday evening, and an instructor is there to give helpful hints, "not like in a classroom," and to help members with problems they might be experiencing with a painting.

Sproule is enthusiastic about the excellent calibre of instructors who have worked with the artists over the years. The instruction must have helped. Sproule has received several awards and honorable mentions in various juried competitions.

But it's not awards she's after. Just lead her to some greenery, perhaps a forest, or a small stream and she'll be out with her easel.

It's all for sheer enjoyment.



Fay Sproule, currently exhibiting her watercolors at Clarkson Lorne Park Library, uses her studio mainly for storage, preferring to do most of her work "on location". Mind you, "it gets a little cold in the winter", she says. Sproule's works are mainly of scenery, buildings and occasionally flowers. She often finds subject matter in her own backyard.

(Staff photo by Michael Stuparyk)

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Sproule, Fay