

Fay Sproule at Springbank

She's the last of a dying breed

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
Staff

As a painter who prefers the inspiration and adventure of working on location, Fay Sproule says she's "among a dying breed."

A collection of her watercolor landscapes and tropical scenes will featured during Sproule's upcoming show at the Springbank Arts Centre, Oct. 19-20.

The Toronto native, who lives on Old Carriage Rd., has painted since she can remember.

Her works, framed and unframed, will be on exhibit and for sale at Springbank, at 3057 Mississauga Rd.

Saturday's show runs from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., while Sunday's hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The exhibit is an annual event for Sproule, whose background and experience in the local arts scene and further afield, is as complex as her exhibition history.

A professional commercial artist, Sproule was a layout and design specialist for Canada Life Assurance Company.

"I wanted to be a pilot or artist. I didn't want to be a secretary. My father said I couldn't be a pilot, so..." said Sproule.

"Young people today have much broader options."

After raising three children, the Mississauga resident of 38 years turned her attention back to her art. This time, it wasn't like a career, but rather, a relaxed profession.

A founding chair of Visual Arts Mississauga, a Mississauga Arts Council (MAC) director and program committee member of the Living Arts Centre (LAC) in Mississauga, Sproule also has lots of teaching experience to her credit.

Sproule has taught at Visual Arts Mississauga,

Springbank, Sheridan College, Collingwood's Blue Mountain School of Landscape Painting, Rivercrest Gallery in Mississauga, and Haliburton's Sir Sandford Fleming School of Art. She even put in an exhausting week as an artist in the classroom at Cawthra Park Secondary School.

"I'm an on-location painter. It's much more inspiring. They say we're becoming a dying breed. Most people are becoming studio painters," said Sproule.

"I travel quite bit and go on painting trips with other artists," said Sproule.

Those trips have taken her to a Mediterranean chateau in France, the Azores, Mexico and Portugal.

"We paint from morning to night," said Sproule of the two-week trips she makes once a year.

When she's not at an exciting foreign locale, or at her yearly workshop in South Carolina, Sproule can be found toting a knapsack full of paints, around local spots in Caledon, the Credit River, Belfountain, Milton, even Clargreen Gardens nursery in the winter.

"We never go east. I guess we're westerners," said Sproule, who often paints with others and has the honor of belonging to the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolor.

Sproule is now working on what artists-in-the-know call a "series of a body of work" on foliage and broad-leaf plants.

"They're a challenge," said Sproule, who said she enjoys a challenge.

Sproule finds plenty of challenge in her unique style of painting from the background forward and in creating the detailed foliage scenes on which she has focused for two years.

"It's green and it's alive. You feel as though you can breathe," said Sproule.



Mississauga artist Fay Sproule displays her watercolor landscapes and tropical scenes during her upcoming show at the Springbank Arts Centre.