

# Landscapes beckon this banker turned artist

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Staff

You would be surprised at the hobbies people have. Often, a person's pastime is diametrically opposed to their career.

That's something Ron Sypher, a Sheridan-Homelands resident for

30 years, knows of first-hand.

Some 18 of the retired banker's landscape paintings are on exhibit through January on the upper level hallway gallery at Credit Valley Hospital.

"If you surveyed a group of professionals, you would find a huge array of skills," said Sypher, 62, who now has the time to devote to the painting he began as a teen.

"I've been painting most of my life. I began painting as a teen. It wasn't through school. I just started painting. I was always drawing," said Sypher.

The St. Catharines native grew up in the Niagara Peninsula and gravitated to Toronto as he established his banking career and settled in Mississauga's Sheridan-Homelands neighborhood.

While raising two children — Sypher now has two young grandchildren — and balancing his 41-year banking career, there wasn't much time for painting. He produced an aver-

age of one painting each year.

Although Sypher had begun painting in oils, he switched to acrylics in 1978 for a purely personal, practical reason. "There were new chemicals in the oils and the odors bothered my sinuses," he said.

Acrylics provide the detail of oils, but are quick drying like watercolors, said Sypher, who's also smitten with the versatility of landscapes.

"Landscapes are really landscapes, seascapes or snowscapes," said the artist, who, if he can't work at a scene, takes many photos, then compiles them into a landscape of his choosing. The paintings come together in his home studio.

"Landscapes are always so appealing. Water and waterfalls are appealing. When you tie it all together, it's an interesting and varied field," Sypher said.

Working from a photograph is complex since snapshots leave Sypher to fill in the nuances of many details.

Most of the landscapes are scenes from rural Ontario, many from Georgian Bay, Sypher's favorite spot. He has a cottage there.

While Sypher could only manage to complete one painting a year while working, now that he's retired, he spends an average of 20-30 hours a week painting and puts out a dozen finished works annually.

Sypher's original works displayed at Credit Valley Hospital are framed and for sale, priced from \$75-\$350.

Sypher's paintings offer the viewer vivid, vibrant colors and peaceful, intricately detailed scenes. He pays close attention to all the properties of painting.

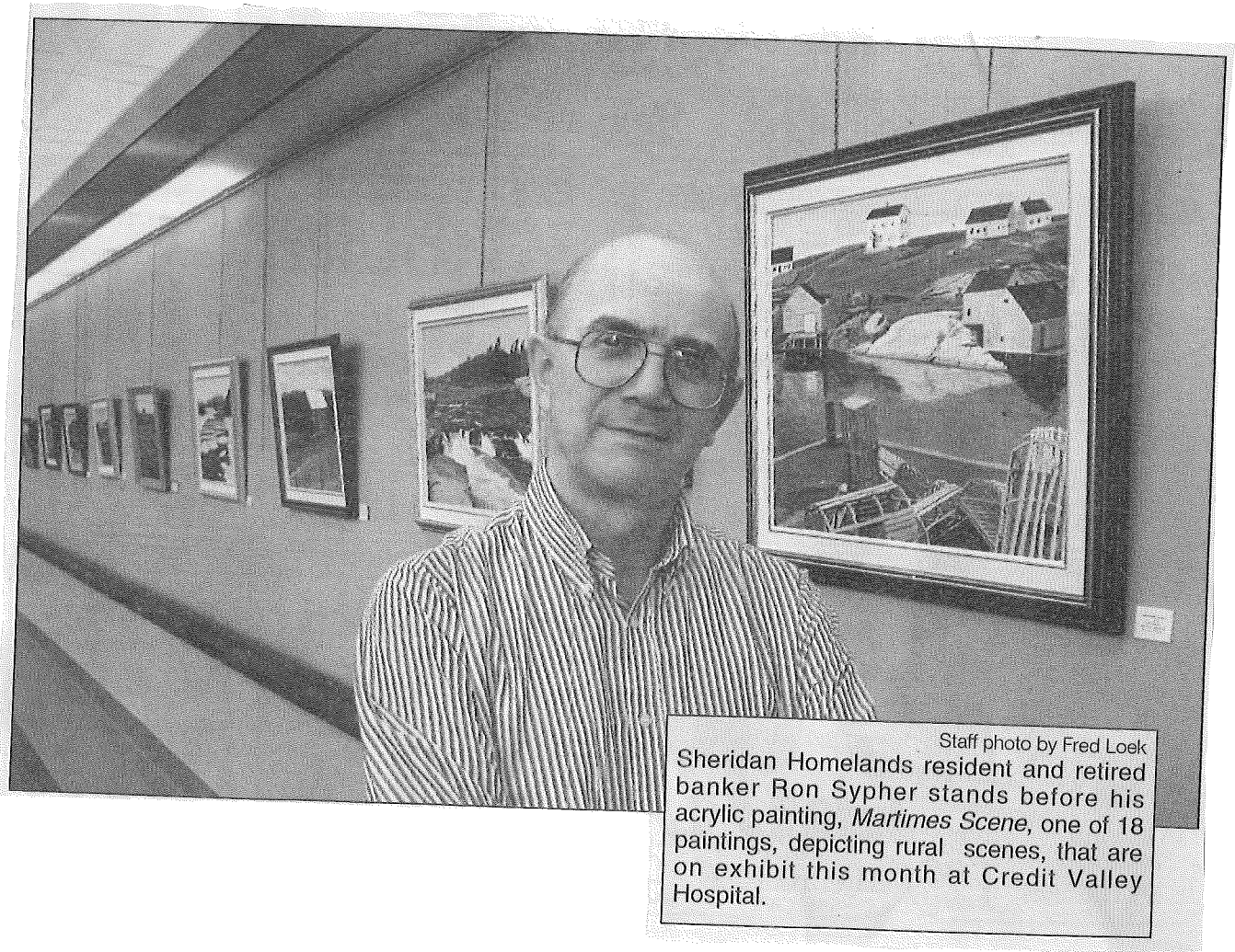
"The viewer's eye has to follow a cir-

cle. The water has to reflect the sky. You need the theory, the foreground, middle ground and background, the degree of detail, the degree of sharpness and detail," he said.

The painter, who took some formal art instruction as a youth and has dabbled in many workshops since, began teaching his craft — acrylic painting, that is — last September at Springbank Visual Arts Centre on Mississauga Rd.

Later this month, Sypher begins a new round of classes geared to teens and adults.

In 1994, Sypher joined the Mississauga Art Society and has displayed his works in various shows, including having his painting, Georgian Bay Sunset, chosen to appear in the 1995 Visual Arts Mississauga (VAM) Annual Juried Show of Fine Arts and Sculptures.



Staff photo by Fred Loek  
Sheridan Homelands resident and retired banker Ron Sypher stands before his acrylic painting, *Martimes Scene*, one of 18 paintings, depicting rural scenes, that are on exhibit this month at Credit Valley Hospital.