

Love of nature inspires Pickering artist

Entertainment
in brief

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Watercolours on display in Ajax starting Tuesday

By Fariha Naqvi-Mohamed

DURHAM — Vast blue skies, eclectic flowers and romantic clouds permeate Kay Hubbard's canvasses. The passionate artist turns to nature and gardening for inspiration and will soon share her gift with the public at the McLean Community Centre in Ajax.

"We're influenced by where we've grown up, and what we know, what we're used to," says the 57-year-old artist.

Originally from Illinois, Ms. Hubbard was influenced by the flat fields and landscape along with panoramic skies.

She takes a break from her home in Pickering to retreat to her cottage in Haliburton, where she attempts to capture nature's pulse on canvas, and convey the exhilaration it brings her, to the public.

Her love for nature fuels her passion to paint, and sometimes causes her to work from sunrise straight through until sunset without realizing it. When she's at the cottage, "I only have to rest my eyes on the tall trees, rustling birches, yellow and red finches and feel that deep love of nature that stills the soul." The tranquility of the water by her cottage beckons her and mirrors the seasons as they change. Its beauty captivates her, and "de-



Jason Liebrechts/ News Advertiser photo

Kay Hubbard is holding a solo show exhibiting her works of Ontario landscapes in watercolour at the McLean Community Centre in Ajax until July 2.

mands that I watch." She assumes the responsibility of wanting to conserve nature's beauty by capturing it on canvas and sharing it with friends and family.

Her work follows the seasons as they change, and she matures with them. At the end of a long day of painting, she realizes that "it is just burnt sienna and ultramarine blue."

The self-proclaimed "Lewis Carroll devotee" is ever surprised at the

endless possibilities when it comes to painting with watercolour. She compares her work to Carroll's *Wonderland*, in which she steps "through the looking glass and my art reflects who I am." Painting, to her, acts as food for her soul. She is both mesmerized by its beauty and amazed by its simplicity.

Ms. Hubbard also holds a doctorate in education and teaches adults. She dreams of one day combining her profession with her passion for

painting and teaching seniors how to paint using watercolours.

Kay Hubbard's work is on display at the McLean Community Centre at 85 Magill Dr. (at Westney Road) in Ajax from May 22 to July 2.

The artist will be present May 23 for an opening show, where refreshments will be served.

The Centre is open Mondays to Fridays from 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free.