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Living his life through art

Ont. artist Conrad Furey has exhibit at Gallery 360

VANESSA CORMIER
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Gallery 360 at Bathurst Heritage Museum is displaying an exhibit of paintings by nationally acclaimed artist Conrad Furey which will run throughout the month of August.

Originally from Newfoundland and now living in Hamilton, Ont., Mr. Furey began exploring art and painting at a very young age.

"It's really all I ever did for the last 30 years," he said.

Mr. Furey studied commercial art at the College of Trades and Technology in St. John's, Nfld. from 1972 to 1973 before moving to Brampton, Ont. to enroll in the the creative art program at Sheridan College from 1973 to 1974.

"I never really had to teach art lessons. If I wasn't making enough money with my paintings, I probably would give a few here and there. To be honest, I don't like having to be somewhere at a set time to teach like that."

ONTARIO ARTIST
CONRAD FUREY

Mr. Furey then moved to Hamilton, where he became involved in the art community. His involvement included working at the Powell Gallery as an informal curator in exchange for an

art studio.

With the connections he made working at the museum, Mr. Furey was able to line up a few exhibitions but it wasn't until 1977 that he was able to secure his first major exhibition, at the Grimsby Art Gallery in Grimsby, Ont.

Eventually, he was able to fulfil every artist's dream - being able to sell enough of his paintings to earn a comfortable living.

He said he hasn't had to teach many art lessons either, which many artists do to bring in extra income.

"I never really had to teach art lessons. If I wasn't making enough money with my paintings, I probably would give a few here and there. To be honest, I don't like having to be somewhere at a set time to teach like that," said Mr. Furey with a friendly laugh.

His work has been shown in exhibits and galleries across the globe, from Mexico to London, England.



Vanessa Cormier/Northern Light Photo

Conrad Furey, with one of his paintings on display in Gallery 360 at the Bathurst Heritage Museum.

See FUREY'S on page C2

Furey's brother is artist, too

Continued from page C1

He said his current exhibit at the Bathurst Heritage Museum was one of the few times he has been shown in New Brunswick.

Although mainly working with acrylic paint on canvas, he has touched on bronze and stone sculpture, stained windows and many murals. He has done a few landscape paintings, but prefers to continue with his original pieces.

His paintings, which are usually colourful and have a distinctive style, are usually described as folk or "naïf."

"I like the honesty of a naïf or naïf style. I just paint what's in my head," said Mr. Furey.

His paintings often depict scenes of his childhood in Newfoundland or things he would have liked to do. He said he sometimes lives through his paintings.

"I always wanted to be a fisherman, but I never got the chances to. Now I'm living that life through my art...filling in the gaps of my life," he said

Painting has proven to be a form of relaxation therapy for Mr. Furey in addition to being a fun career.

"It's something you do everyday, I guess after a while it becomes a part of you. You begin to grow with the medium. Right now, I'm really into color and layering; it gives you more control," said Mr. Furey.

As for how he came to show his work in Bathurst, it's through his brother John, a local resident who is a painter, too, and an active member of the Bathurst Art Society.

A portion of the proceeds from Conrad Furey's sale of paintings during his exhibit at Gallery 360 will go directly to the Bathurst Heritage Museum.



Submitted photo

Cuts hair for cancer

Eight-year-old Allison Smith of South Tetagouche cut her hair recently for the Canadian Cancer Society. The hair will be made into wigs for children who are suffering from the disease. Allison is the daughter of Brenda and Floyd Smith.



Graduate



Tim Scribner, grandson of Mrs. Gladys Boudreau, Rough Waters Drive and the late Valmond J. Boudreau, graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. As a recipient of an NSERC Canadian Graduate Scholarship, he will be pursuing a Master's Degree at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

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