

April 2020

Neighbours of **Manotick**

*An exclusive magazine for the residents of Manotick, Rideau Forest
and Carleton Golf & Yacht*

4TH
Anniversary
Edition



Inspirational:
**Meet the
Manotick Art
Association**

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Inspirational: Meet the Manotick Art Association

By Mike Van Haren | Photos by Diamondview Photography

It's a privilege to have an original work of art sitting in your home. Like baked goods from a friend's oven, there is love, time and care put into the work to capture a moment, a place or a feeling that we can savour for years to come. To celebrate the years that they've put into their craft and their upcoming Spring Show, we're thrilled to feature one of the members of the Manotick Art Association.

Meet your neighbour, Jaynie Coulterman, former president of the Manotick Art Association and current treasurer on the executive team. Jaynie and her husband, Don, moved to Manotick in 1995 with their three sons, Matthew, Adam and Michael. For two electrical engineers, Kanata was the land of opportunity as the tech sector grew, and Manotick's charm caught their eye as a place to call home.

Jaynie grew up in Pointe Claire, a suburb on the west side of Montreal. She was a teenager when she discovered her interest in art and took lessons with a neighbour who taught her oil painting. As life got busy, first with university, where she studied at McGill, and then with a career and family, her passion took a back seat. "I returned to painting seven years ago," explained Jaynie. "I returned to oil painting for a short time, but I got fed up with how long it takes to dry, so I switched to acrylic," she laughed. "I joined the Manotick Art Association to meet other artists, find out what they were doing and listen to the speakers. I joined with the intention to shake off some of the rust and found myself as president for four years."

It was in 1983 that a group of Manotick artists came together to establish a formal art group in the community. To determine if there was enough interest, before email and social media, a book to collect signatures was left at the Take Five Gallery. By the end of the year, with enough signatures collected, the wheels were put in motion to organize the Manotick Art Association. Longtime residents will remember the

MAA's show, "The Dam Art Show," which was held at Watson's Mill, until the group outgrew the venue. The MAA's year now culminates around its annual Inspirations Spring Show and Sales, and the 180 artist-members support each other throughout the year with monthly meetings where a guest speaker, chosen from various disciplines in the art world, will give a presentation. Meetings are typically held on the first Tuesday of the month from September through June.

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The Inspirations Spring Show has become one of the top art shows in the area. "If there are 53 artists showcasing their work, there are 53 styles to see. There's something for everyone, with work in watercolour, oil, pastel and acrylic, as well as photography, marquetry and glasswork," said Jaynie. "If you're a repeat visitor to the art shows, you start to become familiar with each artist's signature through their medium and style." Jaynie has seen the spring show grow significantly since she joined the MAA. "The vernissage we host on Friday evening has become a sold-out event, and more artists have wanted to join the group and be involved in the show as a result. It's gratifying to see the community respond to the effort that the group puts into the event."

As well as being a member of the MAA, Jaynie is also a member of Arts Carleton Place and the West Carleton Arts Society. Her work has been juried into the Kanata Civic Art Gallery, and she helps support the gallery by volunteering for sitting hours. In the past, her paintings have sat at the Foyer Gallery and the Arts Carleton Spring Show.

"Watching Jaynie work is amazing," said Giedre Abromaitis, current president of the MAA. "Each piece is a work of patience and love. She diligently works each layer of paint onto the canvas to capture the smooth flow of shapes and images that is the trademark of her work. There are no mistakes or accidents of brush stroke. Instead, what one sees is a smooth rendering of flowing colours and shapes, painstakingly applied until they are perfect. She isn't afraid to use bold, eye-catching colours and diligently works with it to create mood, atmosphere and a sense of being immersed in a scene. Her work most often reflects the beauty and peacefulness of the natural world and aims to reflect life as a celebration."

About her own work, Jaynie has some ideas on how her style developed. "Maybe it's because I'm an engineer, but I paint with detail," she laughed, "I don't have a loose-flowing brush." In the artist's parlance, "My work is evolving toward a more abstracted view of reality through the simplification of design, pattern and light." From these layman's eyes, one steps back to see the individual colours of a sunset plucked from the gradient of an endless sky, where every detailed ribbon of colour on the canvas shifts to create the texture and light of the scene in her mind. We recognize every colour in the painting from our own mental catalogue of sunsets, but now we see the moment rendered through Jaynie's eye and hand and are touched by how she has captured it with such dynamic simplicity. "When people are browsing my collection, they often connect with paintings that they have personal experience with from their travels, whether it's the coast of British Columbia, Jasper National Park, or the memories of a family cottage in Ontario."

Even though it is currently postponed, the MAA is preparing for its annual Inspirations Spring Show and Sale. "Our members have been preparing for months," said Jaynie. "Artists apply to the show four


to eight months in advance and are then given their booth size to determine how much space they will have to display their work. I don't paint very quickly, so I have to give myself several months to prepare." The MAA always finds a way to support the community through the show. In the past, it has donated a portion of the show's proceeds to Rural Ottawa South Support Services (ROSSS), the Youth of Manotick Association (YOMA) and the United Church. This year, part of the show's proceeds will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Eastern Ontario.

The show is held at the Manotick Curling Centre, 5519 South River Drive and opens with a Friday-night Vernissage. This is a popular event, with music, wine and tasty morsels available for you as you browse the artwork and mingle with the artists. Tickets are just \$10 and will be available to purchase from your favourite MAA member as well as at Manotick Office Pro, Lindsay & McCaffrey in the Manotick Mews or online through the MAA website. The show will go on. Visit manotickart.ca regularly for updates about the new date.

The MAA is incredibly grateful for the longtime support they've received from the community. The vibrant membership of the group is a testament to the generosity and spirit of Manotick as a home for the arts. The MAA's ongoing mission is to support, encourage and foster the development of artists within the Rideau Valley area for anyone at any level, from beginner to professional.

DO YOU KNOW A NEIGHBOUR WHO HAS A STORY TO SHARE?
Nominate your neighbour to be featured in one of our upcoming issues!
Contact us at mvanharen@bestversionmedia.com

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