

Grand Manan Art Gallery opens with slew of works featuring island's beauty

Brian Mumford

GRAND MANAN

What usually litters the den on Bev Cary's house is now lining the walls of the Grand Manan art gallery, and his wife couldn't be happier or more proud. Proud because of his accomplishment, happy because he's one messy artist.

"I put the bear in the den," said Cary's wife Ella. "I told him to put it in there and stay in there, because what a mess of paint."

Bev, a retired fisherman, hasn't been a lifelong painter, but has discovered a passion for it after he stopped venturing out onto the open waters.

"He hasn't been at it for that long, he started about two years ago," said Ella. "He's quick, some people take months to do a picture. He doesn't sleep nights, sometimes, and he can do one in a night."

Deborah Upton-Savedoff, director at the art gallery, said displaying a lo-

cal artist such as Bev is a very fitting way to kick off the season. Born in Woodward's Cove in 1934, he's never called any other place home. He can actually even see the home he was born in from the home he now shares with his wife.

"Everyone has a stereotype of what a fisherman is like," said Upton-Savedoff, who loves that all of the nearly 40 works they have on display feature some part of the island.

Bev's artistic works provide an insight beyond that stereotype, Upton-Savedoff suggests - and there's many of those works.

"He had so many, we couldn't display them all. He's really a prolific painter, he really enjoys painting the historical sites of Grand Manan."

Bev's main focus through many of the paintings is the historical aspect of the island. He takes old photographs from various periods of time and transforms them into acrylic works.

"He's got some beautiful paintings. People give him pictures, there

was a lobster factory and he painted that," said Ella. "He painted the Wood Island Church for me and I don't want that sold."

The painting of the Wood Island Church, very near Ella's childhood home, brings back memories of days gone by for her. Many of Bev's works would do the same for other long-time residents, and will bring a sense of history to anyone who visits from the mainland.

Bev's works aren't the only art on display right now at the art gallery. There are also around 40 works on display from the junior art group on the island.

There will also be another group of works on display in the Grand Manan Art Gallery starting on Saturday. Called "Grand Manan Artists from Away," it will feature the works of artists from other provinces who have been coming to the island for years to capture its beauty.

The exhibit will open Saturday at 4 p.m., then on July 14 at 7 p.m. there will be an open house with the artists



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Jennifer Marich is one of the artists from out of province who come to Grand Manan to paint. You can see her works and the works of others at the Grand Manan Art Gallery starting on July 7.

will be held where patrons can talk to the come-from-aways about their art and what draws them to the island.

"The connection for these Toronto artists is that Grand Manan is a great destination for artist workshops,



Deborah Upton-Savedoff photo

Bev Cary, a retired fisherman, has found satisfaction in painting since retiring. His works are currently on display at the Grand Manan Art Gallery.

Some of these artists have been coming for years," said Savedoff. "It's a great opportunity for the public to see their work. A lot of times they just see them on the side of the road with a half-finished painting."