

Welcome to my April newsletter! I hope to communicate a glimpse of my watercolour painting journey. I am thankful that you are reading this, and if you know of anyone who might be interested in receiving my newsletter, please direct them to my website – tomdohertywatercolour.ca. It is there, on my newsletter page, that they can subscribe. I would be most grateful for your help!

I am gearing up for a summer of activity. I take great pleasure in speaking to folks about my paintings. I feel a certain excitement brewing as I begin to prepare for the possibility of meeting people at several upcoming events. Perhaps you might plan a road trip to include a connection with me in person. If you can come, please let me know of your plans.

Huntsville Festival of the Arts Art Crawl, June 1 – August 31
 Rosseau Farmers' Market, Fridays, June 26, July 17, August 28
 Dwight Farmers' Market, Wednesdays, July 1 – September 2
 Baysville Farmers' Market, Fridays, July 3, 10, 24, 31, August 7, 21, September 4
 Huntsville Art Society Show at Algonquin Theatre, August 1 – August 31
 Muskoka North Studio Tour, August 14–16

Pictured below is my new travelling show for the markets. For my first year of displaying my paintings to the public, I constructed ten wooden panels for use under my canopy. Upon these wooden walls I displayed my paintings. Those panels were heavy, and so I sought out my new set-up. This year I will use three newly purchased black mesh walls (much lighter!), miraculously sturdy enough to hold the weight of many paintings. This image is of my first trial set-up, installed within our screened-in porch, just a few days ago.



I always name my paintings, but never my commissions. I believe the painting is very personal to the purchaser, depicting some important memory for them. I feel it to be a tad presumptuous to name a painting that is, for many, their own "sacred" image.

Janis commissioned me to paint what has become a gift to a very good friend. The closest we came to naming it was Janis' reference to it as the "Bohemia Commission", named after the Bohemia Cafe where she and her friend regularly meet.



This painting was a real challenge for me and I was delighted with the final product. Landscape painting is my passion, so this is the closest I've come to a portrait. It represents their friendship, and their meeting often in this familiar place, enjoying warm conversation over coffee or tea, and perhaps a bite to eat. It moved me deeply to see Janis's response to the painting when I delivered it to her. Even more heartwarming was to hear of her friend's reaction when she received the gift.

I would enjoy painting a commission for you.

Recently, our good friends invited us to lend a hand with their maple syrup harvest. They have a bit of a farm with sheep and chickens, and rhubarb three feet tall ... nestled into the trees, beside a flowing brook, amongst the white pines. Oh, and did I say that they live in a log home, made with pine harvested from their property. Pretty idyllic, at least to my way of thinking.

The sky was grey that day, and there was still some snow lingering. I could not resist the taking of a few photos, hoping for the possibility that they might contribute to a recent series I was painting. Six in number, the series is called "Thaw". I have included two for your viewing pleasure. I like them both.

The names are simple. I call the first "Sheep" (14x11). The subject caught my attention, with my taking her picture catching hers, as she inquisitively turned her head to find out what all the fuss was about.

"Chicken coop" (10x8) depicts one of the wonderful Muskokan and weathered buildings I love to paint. I brightened the dreary sky with some lavender. The chickens just happened to be in the coop ... you will have to take my word for it.

Until next time ...



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