

Regina Beach is Home to New Artist



Many artists call Regina Beach their home. From writers to painters, it seems as though the valley itself inspires creative expression. Such is the case with Donna Muller.

She and her husband Gerald settled in Buena Vista only 2 years ago. The area has quickly found a place in Muller's heart. She considers the south shore of Last Mountain Lake her home. Where she belongs. The lake called her, she says. It's the reason why she and her husband settled in the valley close to water. With her artists' eye, Muller now captures the passion and beauty of the land through her visual art. Painting images that attest to her feeling this place is special

"Everything needs water," she says. "I love to kayak. And there is no way to describe the fascination with water. It is like you forget about everything when you are out there on the lake. You see eagles and fish and plant life that you might

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not see - walking on the land."

She comes from experience in her fascination with water. Donna spent many years living along the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia. Having grown up in Leask, an in-land village on the Saskatchewan plains, the ocean coastline is where she found her love and attraction to water. Now retired, painting images of Last Mountain Lake and its landscape are how she continues to express herself, and it is the main element in her paintings these days. "I started just dabbling in plein air with a group of artists in Nova Scotia. That is painting freehand outdoors. It got me hooked, and I haven't been able to stop painting ever since."

Muller's home is a virtual gallery with hundreds of oils painted on canvas. She is also a member of the South Shore Art Guild in Regina Beach. A group which holds an annual art exhibit at the Last Mountain Lake Cultural Centre each July

"I started painting for myself initially, but once I got started, people kept encouraging and asking for commissions. Now I have about 500 paintings in my home at any given time. I am doing something which I truly love to do."

It is no surprise that Muller continues with her practice of painting outdoors. As much as possible she sits with her oils contemplating how to best capture the lake and the light of the south shore landscape

"I will always be attracted to water," she says, "anyone can feel how it revitalizes just by looking at it."

Muller says people are attracted to images that remind them of some special moment in time, like walking along the shoreline or on the pathway in Regina Beach. And she says she cannot stop capturing those memories which are sure to be precious. It is the reason she vows to continue to celebrate the lake, and the land through her painted depictions, which ring with both colour and light.



Regina Beach Artist Donna Muller in her studio