

# Nepean/Barrhaven EMC

## Best of the west at Barrhaven art show

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BY STEPH WILLEMS

EMC Entertainment - The art scene in Barrhaven continues to grow, and a new art show coming to the Barrhaven Legion Feb. 20 is proof of that.

Coming on the heels of a recent show at the Stonebridge Golf and Country Club, the Art for the Heart Show will feature 10 artists from Barrhaven, Nepean and Kanata. As with the Stonebridge event, organizers are hoping this show (tagged as 'the best in the west') will become an annual event.

"Ten artists, and probably 10 different styles and mediums - it was deliberately chosen that way," said organizer and exhibitor Judy Miller, who specializes in embroidery.

Viewers can expect to see that medium as well as oils, acrylic, watercolours, ink and pencil in a variety of styles - from abstract to realist.

The show was the brainchild of Barrhaven painter Sylvia Summers-Martyn, who organized the Stonebridge show to display the talent that existed in the community. Art for the Heart broadens the geographical range a bit to include the rest of the west end.

Because February is Heart and Stroke Month in Canada, a portion of the proceeds from the show and sale will go towards the University of Ottawa Heart Institute.

"There will be a Heart Institute representative on site all day," explained organizer and exhibitor Jill Alexander, who said the group of 10 wanted to give back to their community.

Alexander's husband was the recipient of care from the Heart Institute following his heart attack several years ago, care that impressed Alexander due to its scope and the fact that follow-up advice continued long after his release.

"We're so appreciative of the Heart Institute," she said. "Everyone knows someone who's alive because of its existence - it's one of those things you're not appreciative of until you need it."

The arts community the show draws from is as eclectic and varied as the works it produces, represented at the show will be both emerging and established artists.

Miller and Alexander are proof that art is more than just a hobby, rather it is a full-time job fueled by creative passion. Both artists took a chance by leaving their individual professions a decade ago and taking up their current employment at great financial risk. The show's creator, Summers-Martyn, is no different.

"I just decided 'if you're going to do it, now's the time'", said Miller. "It's never going to be the perfect time, so you might as well do it."

Alexander made the decision following a personal crisis, thus turning a page and gaining a rewarding new direction in her life.

"It was go big or go home," she said.

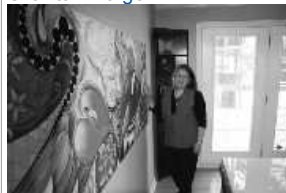
The strength to make such a decision and the creativity and imagination needed to sustain an artistic career will be on full display at the Feb. 20 show, which runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Barrhaven Legion is located at 3500 Fallowfield Road.

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Steph Willem, Nepean  
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Alexander and Miller expressed their gratitude to the show's sponsors - EMC newspapers, Ross' Independent Grocer, and The UPS Store - and the Legion, all of who made the show possible.

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