

Spring into art with revamped Studio Tour



By Brock Weir

Spring has sprung, and so have the creative juices of local artists as they prepare to welcome aficionados and everyday art lovers into their studios this month.

Typically a late-autumn affair, organizers of the eighth annual Aurora Artists' Studio Tour are trying something new for 2017 ? not only getting a head-start on some of the other studio tours in the Greater Toronto Area, but getting everything in place for a full roster of events coinciding with the 150th Anniversary of Confederation.

This year's Studio Tour runs Saturday, April 8 and Sunday, April 9, at a host of locations around Aurora, featuring original works of art from traditional oils and acrylics, to photography, to sculpture, and art crafted from found objects, created by 14 artists in six studio locations.

?We had a meeting after our most recent tour and the general consensus was to try a new season and, with the beginning of spring, bring the public out and encourage them to buy art,? says tour founder Deborah Campo.

?It is a good time of year because tours are just starting and when they are just starting, you might get a better turnout,? agrees fellow artist Shirley Binns.

Participating artists, in addition to Ms. Campo and Ms. Binns, include Willo Rodrigues, Judy Bobsin, Carol Beaver, Karen L. Brown, Claire D'Aurore, Philippa Hajdu, and Dianne Hughes at the Patrick House Gallery on Temperance Street, Christine Valentini, Margarete and Ralph Brunner of Gallery 15516, along with Katie Argyle and Campbell Sampson at ?Out of My Mind.? Ongoing, in conjunction with the Artists' Studio Tour, is ?Canadian Art in the Cabinet,? which will be on display at the Aurora Cultural Centre from March 31 through April 10, showcasing work from all participating artists, and they will reconvene this fall at Hillary House from November 2 to January for Art at the Manor.