

DIANE NELLES

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Diane Nelles was born and raised in Nakina, Ontario, a small town northeast of Thunder Bay. Art was always a passion, from early childhood through high school art classes. After raising two children and retirement Diane returned to sketching and painting. Now residing with her husband in rural Petrolia, Diane is surrounded by nature, an inspiration for her artwork.

Mostly self taught, Diane has been painting in watercolour since 2003. Since then, she has studied with Tony Batten, Jack Reid, Linda Kemp and several local artists. Tall twisted pine trees, moss and lichen covered rocks and crystal clear waters of Northern Ontario were her first subjects and continue to be her favourite. Her subject matter now includes local rural scenes, from barns to historical homes; floral and still life; as well as scenes from her travels.

From 2005 to 2008 Diane worked as an artist/educator with the “Learning through the Arts” program, assisting teachers with the elementary curriculum, using different art forms to create an exciting lesson plan for the students. Diane has lead several Paint Night sessions and continues to lead occasional art classes, with the Sarnia Artists' Workshop.

During the summer of 2016, Diane decided to challenge herself by adding acrylics to her studio. With these vivid, exciting colours she works in a much looser style, creating bold and exciting compositions as opposed to her detailed work with watercolour. In this show she will have her vibrant acrylic canvases as well as the softer, detailed watercolours on display.

A member of “The 6 plus 1 Art Group”, “Sarnia Artists' Workshop”, and an associate member of “The Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour, Diane spends her time, painting, traveling, and enjoying her grandchildren.