

An Aylmer artist's stroke of genius

Rhéal McIntyre fuses form and colour with style

By KATHERINE ALDRED

AYLMER

Amidst thousands of brightly-coloured points Aylmer artist Rhéal McIntyre sits in the Farley House and talks quietly about what surrounds him.

Many of his paintings depict cool ocean scenes from the quiet fishing village on the coast of New Brunswick where he was raised while others capture the unique colour and geography of the Ottawa River and the Gatineau Hills that local residents know so well.

"I love it here, and I don't want to move," he says.

McIntyre works exclusively with acrylics, using his trademark dapple and point technique to fuse form and colour and capture the textures

and hues of his subjects with unusual beauty.

He was introduced at an early age to carpentry and woodworking in his father's mill and workshop, where he developed his own interest in sculpture.

"Woodwork is my life, really. I was born with a piece of wood in my hand," said McIntyre. "When I turned 12 years old I started working at the workshop in the summer. I didn't have a choice!"

But his passion for painting finally took hold a few years ago and after taking a Master into his home for three months, McIntyre developed his style rapidly.

He still makes wood sculptures, most out of B.C. fir or mahogany, and has designed

a peace sculpture that he has yet to construct and mount. Still, his main focus now is on the canvas.

McIntyre moved to Aylmer six years ago and took some drawing courses at the Ottawa School of Art.

"Painting is in my blood. I always knew I wanted to paint," he says. One of his most popular and successful works is a view of river reeds along the Ottawa River looking toward Aylmer.

"About 80 per cent of the people who come like that one the best. That's one of my favourites," says McIntyre.

His work will be on display at the Farley House, 495 Aylmer Road, until Dec. 20.

Rhéal McIntyre and two of his coastal creations.

KA

