



Merry Christmas and happy holidays to each and every one of you! I trust that you are having a good time with family and friends. This season can have its hectic side; I hope you are also able to find some restful moments ... some time to take a walk, read a book, watch a Christmas classic movie, or get lost in a piece of art.

With my wife, Maryann, we have decided to stay at our home near Dwight, Ontario for the winter. We're enjoying a white Christmas amidst the towering pines and by the frozen lake we call "Angle". Yesterday, mid-afternoon, we saw a lone wolf on the lake off the little tamarack point in front of our place. The picture below is the place, minus the wolf. Our cameras weren't fast enough.

We wanted to give this special place a name and it took us until our fourth year here to come up with Dòigh Nàdair. I have named my studio the same. It is a Celtic/Gaelic wording that means "the way of nature" and captures, for us, the essence of this place we call home. In winter, we are the only people on the lake and 1.3 kilometres in from the highway. It is quiet. Lots of animal tracks. When it snows, it is magic. Give me a call some time to set up a visit.



Sandy Prong gave me permission to share this photo with you of one of my recent commissions. I dropped it off for her and Mike at Deerhurst near Huntsville, and she was delighted with my painting of their beloved home on Oxbow Lake, recently sold. It will be a memory for them of their building adventure for years to come.

When asked to paint a commission, I take special care to create a painting that creates feelings of warmth and joy, often painting it a few times to "get it right". It is always a source of great pride and joy when I deliver the finished product.

I have included two of my recent paintings here for your viewing pleasure. The top one is called "The shadows deepen". These days, my paintings are one of two sizes (framed, they are larger, including the frame and mat). A late afternoon painting, this one is a quarter sheet (14x11). Quarter sheet paintings are priced at \$350, framed and matted, and less if you choose to do your own framing. I use the highest quality of paper and paints. The frames are simple and black, usually with a white mat. The light was catching that point (where the wolf was standing), and the brightness of that distant snow as the early winter shadows crept towards the east.



The second painting I call "Sage green", a 10x8 watercolour. These smaller paintings, framed and matted, are \$150. I often look at this boathouse on my almost daily walks up the lane, and this photo was taken this past year during the greener season. The reflection in the water caught my attention. The grey sky (and water) do not distract from the "star of the show". It captures the tranquility of Muskoka. Everywhere you look the colour green, with its many shades, takes you in. As I continue to refine my craft, I seek a simplicity of design and brush stroke. A recent mantra is "as few a number of brushstrokes as possible". So much of art is left to the viewer's imagination.



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