

## Judith Versavel Gallery on the Bay

Judith started drawing at an early age and, by the time she was seven, had decided on an artistic life. She enrolled in a graphic arts program in high school and, from there, began her artistic career.

After working in Toronto as a graphic designer at Bell Canada, Colgate Palmolive and Simpson's Contract, Judith moved to the Kingston area and in 1976 began working at *Harrowsmith* magazine, a back-to-the-land publication that was to grow and become beloved by many. *Equinox* magazine was added to the mix, and many books were published under the Camden House Publishing label.



*Secret of Willow Castle*, a reprint by Canadian author Lyn Cook, was a historical children's book that Judith illustrated in conjunction with the author. It followed the adventures of Henrietta Macpherson and her secret friend at Macpherson House in Napanee, and included visits by her cousin Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister.

After leaving *Harrowsmith* in 1986, Judith became Art Director at Kingston Publications, a company that produced over 11 publications a year, including *CFB Kingston* and *Welcome Back Student Guide*, a publication for Queen's University, St. Lawrence College and RMC. While working in Kingston, Judith developed and taught continuing education art courses at St. Lawrence College, including portraiture, drawing and painting and fashion design. She also found time to pursue her first love of painting by completing numerous portraits of people, pets and homes.

In 2002, Judith quit her career in publishing and moved north of Kingston to Arden, a small rural town where her family has had roots since the late 1800s. The family cottage has become home.

In 2005, with the help of a friend, Judith built her own studio/gallery space overlooking Big Clear Lake. It is here that Judith welcomes visitors and encourages them to stop for a while, relax by the lake and see all the work offered by herself and a number of talented, local artisans.

Judith's acrylics and watercolours reflect her love of and adept use of colour to enhance the mood of her subjects. Figurative work, wildlife paintings and rural scenes are continuing themes and Judith's whimsical sense of humour often shines through. She also offers her one-of-a-kind jewellery, featuring asymmetrical designs which are extremely popular.

Judith's gallery space offers a friendly atmosphere and a place to meet people in a more personal setting. She also enjoys the contacts she gets from meeting the public at the many shows in which she's involved.

*Judith*