

JANE CHAMPAGNE



PLEIN AIR ARTIST & INSTRUCTOR

Jane
Champagne
painting on
location at
George Lake,
Killarney
Provincial
Park



LEGACY - The Artists of Killarney Provincial Park

JANE CHAMPAGNE: 1930- 2008

Jane Champagne was an artist unashameably hooked on painting in the wide open spaces of Ontario. This is not surprising since she was born in Toronto and grew up here in Ontario, did her BFA at the University of Toronto and painted and wrote a lot about Ontario. She then went off to Paris, France, on a scholarship to absorb the language and culture of France and became an artist. Ten years later she returned to Canada where she raised her children and became a writer editor with such magazines as MACLEANS, HOMEMAKERS, and THE CANADIAN COMPOSER.

After her children were grown and had moved out on their own Jane revived her first love, her love of painting, and became a full time artist. Success followed. Asked to write a book about her painting adventures she produced "**Painting the Ontario Landscape**" which was published by The University of Toronto Press. This book continues to inspire new and long time painters alike.

Teaching painting was an important part of Jane Champagne's life as an artist. Jane taught painting

classes in and around the Toronto area, Elderhostel groups at Killarney and at Geneva Park at Orillia, Ontario. Jane lived at Southampton, Ontario where she taught painting, both indoors and outdoors and was the founder

of the **Ontario Outdoor Painting Society** which is based at the Southampton Art School.



Jane Champagne's love for painting and for Killarney Provincial Park continue to be unequalled. Jane spent several summers acting as the Artist in Residence at the Killarney Mountain Lodge. She returned as often as possible with painting groups with whom she shared her enthusiasm. When asked to participate in the Friends of Killarney Park's art history project she did so by e-mailing images and this explanation which we felt that you might like to share.....

LEGACY - The Artists of Killarney Provincial Park

"Here are five digitals of 5x7 watercolour and ink "spit box" paintings done in the Park. Spit box, because if you run out of water, you spit in the paint box... although running out of water doesn't happen too often in the park!

"Canoe Painting" was done from my canoe, on a calm day, of one of the small islands in Johnny Lake;

"Johnny Lake" was done near the narrows between Crooked Lake (which I still call Johnny Lake) and Brush Camp Lake. As I recall, I was standing in the water to escape the deer flies with the paper steadied on a floating dock at the Lodge's camp there.

"Portage, Brush Camp" was done while I was waiting for the group to come back for the second load - on one of those sparkling days that make the park so attractive.

"Twin Pine Island" is another canoe painting of my favorite Johnny Lake island. I used to spend the day happily

paddling from one painting spot to another. One memorable time, when I was carrying the barbecue supplies (mostly hamburger and hot dogs) in the canoe on my way to Killarney Mountain Lodges' camp at the narrows, a black bear swam across to my island; fortunately, I was downwind, and froze until he disappeared.

"Killarney Bay, from Skyjack", was painted from one of the Lodge motor cruisers, on our way to Baie Fine.

As far as I'm concerned, painting these small pen and wash sketches capture the essence of a place better than any photograph, for the painter at least, and for those who have explored the Park and loved it. There's something about the immediacy -- the need to get on paper that sparkling moment, Killarney's special, indescribable light, colour contrasts, water depths and reflections. I could go on and on...."

Jane Champagne 2004



Jane Champagne
George Lake
Oil on Canvas



Jane Champagne
Rock Rhythms
Acrylic



**Jane
Champagne**

***Canoe
Painting-***

Johnnie Lake

***Pen & Ink
Sketch with
Watercolour
Wash***



Jane Champagne

Killarney

Watercolor Painting



Jane Champagne

Johnnie Lake

Watercolour Sketch



Jane Champagne

Killarney Bay from Skyjack

Watercolour Sketch



Jane Champagne Twin Pine Island from the Canoe *Pen & Ink sketch with Watercolour Wash*



Jane Champagne Portage from Brush Camp Lake to Silver Lake Watercolour Sketch

LEGACY - The Artists of Killarney Provincial Park

JANE CHAMPAGNE 1930 - 2008

Jane Champagne loved life, loved the out of doors and, above all, loved painting. She viewed the beauty of nature the way that few can and was one of those fortunate enough to be able to translate this beauty to canvas for those who could not. Jane painted throughout Ontario, but she particularly enjoyed painting in Killarney Provincial Park where she became an accomplished plein air artist, creating vivid landscapes from the beauty around her.

Jane was a true artist of life. She surrounded herself with a wide, eclectic, circle of friends or rather; they surrounded her for they admired her tenacity, her strength, her generosity and her courage and honesty to say what she felt.

Jane died on March 28, 2008 in the Southampton Hospital. Although, sadly missed, her memory will live on through her paintings and writings; inspiration for future generations.