Helen MacLeod 11

Before refrigeration, ice blocks were harvested from the Bayfield River. Ice was a valuable commodity in the fishing industry which was needed throughout the year to preserve and keep fish fresh on the way to the market. Each fishing boat would use about 50 tons of ice a year. The goal was to harvest two crops of ice each winter.

Specially designed ice saws were used to cut the blocks. Once the blocks were pried loose, they were loaded on rafts or horse sleighs and taken to the ice shed. The blocks were carefully stacked in tiers with sawdust packed in between the layers of blocks. Sawdust was easily available from the local sawmill. Even in the hottest days of summer the ice lasted with careful storage. Most townsfolk had their own small ice sheds and ice was hauled on sleighs from the river to farms, private homes, and the hotels and stores in and around Bayfield. Ice could be delivered daily to homes and cottages if needed.

February is always cold in Bayfield. The village was often isolated and closed off due to snow drifts. This was the time when the river would provide the ice to prepare the Village for another season of fishing, cottagers, and tourists.

Represented here is The Helen MacLeod II, a Lake Huron schooner, was built in 1925 by Louie MacLeod (1888-1961) in Bayfield. It had an overall length of 36 feet, a beam of 10 feet, and a 3-foot-6-inch draft.

About The Artist Kathy White

“‘Illuminated Bayfield Sunset’ is inspired by the fascinating illustrations found in ancient illuminated manuscripts. The subject of the image pays tribute to the famous Lake Huron sunsets, rendered in a style that reminds us we are part of a larger ecosystem and universe.

The image is framed by a border depicting the life cycles of milkweed plants and monarch butterflies. Monarchs were announced to be under threat of endangerment as I worked on the design, so I included a tribute to them and their symbiotic relationship with milkweed. It is a reminder of our duty to respect and protect the places and ecosystems we share with other species.

The foreground of the central image features Ontario red clover, a Scots pine tree, and split rail fence. These suggest watching the sunset from Pioneer Park, a time honoured Bayfield activity. Elements of the image are white to carry the eye around the design. Different fields are curved to suggest wave shapes and all of the colours are chosen to be striking when viewed against the sky.”

BIO

Kathy pursued the visual arts as a young child and continued with elective fine art courses throughout university. Following graduation, she studied ceramics through private lessons and adult courses at Fanshawe College and the Durham West Art Centre. Kathy worked briefly painting signs.

Upon her return to Kitchener, ON, Kathy began to share a pottery studio at Globe Studios. While there, she studied painting and experimented with wool fibre as a medium for visual art. Bayfield’s own Main Street Gallery launched Kathy’s professional art career by showing her fibre work in 2015. Kathy was featured as a Contemporary Artist at the St. Jacobs Quilt Festival in 2016, and in 2017, she had a solo exhibition in Kitchener City Hall’s Rotunda Gallery, with a second at the Blyth Festival Art Gallery in 2018. That same year, Kathy was honoured with a Kingsbrae International Artist Residency in St. Andrews, NB. Her work has also been selected for numerous group shows across Ontario.

Kathy’s current focus is to make art sustainable and accessible for all. She believes the climate crisis we face needs to be addressed on all levels, and is exploring what she can do through artistic practice.

kathywhiteart@gmail.com
www.kathywhiteart.com
www.instagram.com/kathywhiteart