

After Hours...Debra Krakow paints

"I wanted to capture the feeling of being jostled by the crowd," says Debra of the painting of a street scene beside her desk (right).



Debra worked from a photo for this painting of a store window (above).



By day, Debra is a Project Manager with Real Estate and Construction, working on projects including the transit facility expansion, solar rooftop installations and the Fire Training Centre.

But evenings, weekends and vacations, you'll find her in her studio on the third floor of her home on Wolfe Island.

"It's my favourite place to be," she says, but notes that she also enjoys time in her garden. Having a studio allows her to have her work-in-progress waiting for her.

Her interest in art started during her time studying architecture at McGill University where an instructor had the students do life-drawing sketches.

The picture behind Debra's desk demonstrates her gift for capturing gesture. She did 10 pictures in this series, three of which hang in the British Whig Building.

She moved to Wolfe Island in 1995 - it was to raise her daughter, Laura, now 18

and son, Liam, now 13, in a country setting with close access to city life. She fell in love with the landscape and did many water-colour paintings featuring it.

She has since moved on to work in acrylic paint, and recently sold eight pieces during the Interconnected Studio Tour.

Debra likes to work in intense spurts and is now getting into mixedmedia, layering acrylic works with collage.

"I'm just starting a series on sailing right now," says Debra, whose work sells at the Stone Heron Gallery on Wolfe Island.

Would she give up her day job to be an artist?

"If I have to make a living at it, it would take the fun out of it. This way I can paint what I want."

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