

West coast artist Perry Haddock shows at Studio Connexion

by Jan McMurray

The show at Studio Connexion in Nakusp from August 25 to September 11 is called *A Love Affair with Nature* and features paintings of west coast artist Perry Haddock.

“The theme is simply the joy of painting the diverse Canadian – mostly BC – landscape,” Haddock said in an interview. “Any artist has such a rich source of inspiration from all over the province. Although

I haven’t been able to travel for a while due to COVID, I have lots of inspiration from photos and sketches I’ve collected from earlier travels.”

Haddock has an impressionistic style, and paints primarily in acrylic

and watercolour. All the pieces in this show are acrylic.

“Since I paint quickly and rather spontaneously, the fact that acrylics dry quickly means that I can layer paint without having to stop and wait for it to dry before moving on,” Haddock explains. “I use a lot of transparent glazes in the early stages of each painting, so it’s also useful to be able to thin the acrylic paint when I need to, or layer it thickly right out of the tube when I want it more opaque.”

Haddock met Anne Beliveau, Studio Connexion gallerist, through artist Tatjana Mirkov-Popovicki. Beliveau says she has met many artists through Tatjana, a former president of the Federation of Canadian Artists who has had several shows at Studio Connexion.

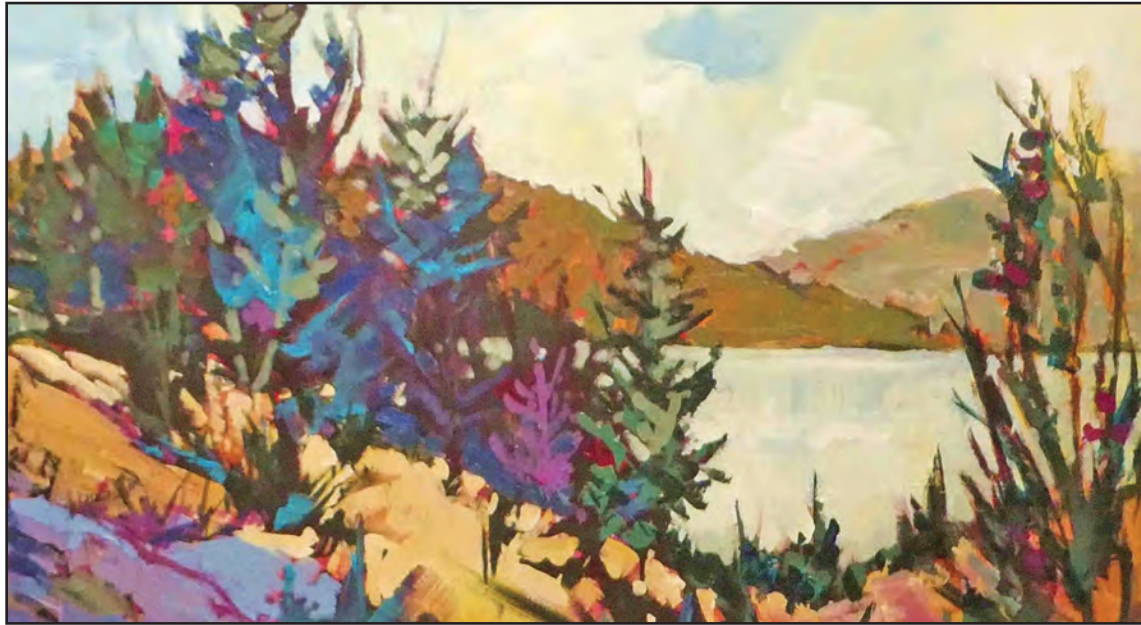
“I was truly lucky to get Perry for an exhibition here at Studio Connexion,” Beliveau says. “We had a few of his pieces during the Winter Group Show and we are hoping the population at large will fall in love with his new fine artworks.”

Haddock is a signature member of the Federation of Canadian Artists and Landscape Artists International,

and an active member of the BC Art Teachers’ Association.

From September 14 to October 2, Studio Connexion will feature a show by Brigitte Desbois, who will facilitate a plein air workshop on the Nakusp waterfront September 18 and 19. The following weekend, the Quebec artist will be back for a second painting workshop for experienced painters at Valley of the Springs Winery.

The gallery is located at 203 Fifth Avenue NW in Nakusp and is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 am to 4 pm. Other times can be arranged by calling 240-265-8888.



‘Lakeview Kaleidoscope’ by Perry Haddock, who is showing at Studio Connexion August 25-September 11.

Kootenay Connect conservation project now halfway through its four years Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor “aptly named” with over 1,000 species documented

by Jan McMurray

The \$4 million, four-year Kootenay Connect project, addressing the impacts of climate change and loss of biodiversity across 10,000 kilometres of Kootenay landscape, is now two years in.

Co-led by Hills resident Marcy Mahr of the Kootenay Conservation Program and independent biologist of Kaslo, Dr. Michael Proctor (Trans-Border Grizzly Bear Project), the project has four focus areas: the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (north of New Denver, between Slocan and Summit Lakes), Columbia Wetlands and Creston Valley (both of which are internationally-recognized wetlands), and Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor (near Cranbrook).

In the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (BBC), the second year has seen wetland restoration at Hunter Siding; an archaeological and cultural assessment; mapping of old-growth forest remaining in the corridor; and studies on species at risk, beaver habitat, and fish and invertebrates in Bonanza Creek.

“Field work over the past two summers in the corridor has led to the discovery of over 1,000 unique species, thus affirming that the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor is aptly named!” said Marcy Mahr in an interview. “This landscape contains 25 provincial or federal species at risk, such as wolverine, grizzly bear and mountain

goat as well as western toad, little brown bat, olive-sided flycatcher, and barn swallow.”

The BBC project is being managed by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS), with local biologists Ryan Durand and Tyson Ehlers hired to do most of the studies.

Mahr says they are learning more and more about how to improve the overall hydrology of the corridor and how this can be part of the solution for climate resilience. She says beavers are key, as they help to distribute water over a large area.

“There are over 17 beaver colonies and we estimate over 80 beavers in the system,” she said. “They make wet areas bigger, and a bigger wet footprint during drought is good for the water supply, and acts as a fire break and a wildlife refuge during fires.”

They are also learning about how the old rail bed has impacted the hydrology of the corridor. “The rail trail is like a linear dam, that has

disconnected the wetlands on either side of it,” she said. “We want our hydrological systems to be connected – that’s how they are best able to respond to flooding and drought conditions.”

SLSS President Wendy King reports that Durand and Ehlers are mapping the old-growth and mature forest in the corridor, and that First Nations are actively involved in this work, as well. She says Kootenay Connect mapping will be integrated into provincial government databases.

“The value of our work is increasing greatly through the contacts and networks of Kootenay Connect,” said King.

The BBC component of the Kootenay Connect project will see an investment of over \$500,000 over the four years.

Funding for the entire Kootenay Connect project comes from the federal government’s Canada Nature Fund (\$2 million), with matching funds from many regional and local organizations.

Welcome to our 13th gallery season

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Perry Haddock

Sept. 14-Oct. 2:
Brigitte Desbois

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