

A Lifetime of Art



the art of

Eleanor Rindlisbacher

INTRO

Eleanor was born in Windsor, Ontario October 11, 1933 (sister two years older and brother 2 years younger). Parents had immigrated from Northern Italy in 1931.

She started at Immaculate Conception School in 1939 and attended St. Josephs High School from 1947 - 1951. Eleanor took her grade 13 at Patterson Collegiate. She then received a scholarship so attended the University of Windsor for one year in the 'Lab Tech' course. Then one year of work practice was at Grace Hospital Lab in Detroit. In 1953 she was hired as a 'Lab Tech' at Hotel Dieu Hospital, where she worked for approximately 3 years. In 1955 she married Harold and they had 6 children. Peter born in 1956, Paul - in 1957, Mary - in 1959, Tom - in 1961, Tim - in 1965 and Julie - in 1972.



In 1991, Eleanor helped Peter with a painting, "Retreat along the St. Clair Shoreline".

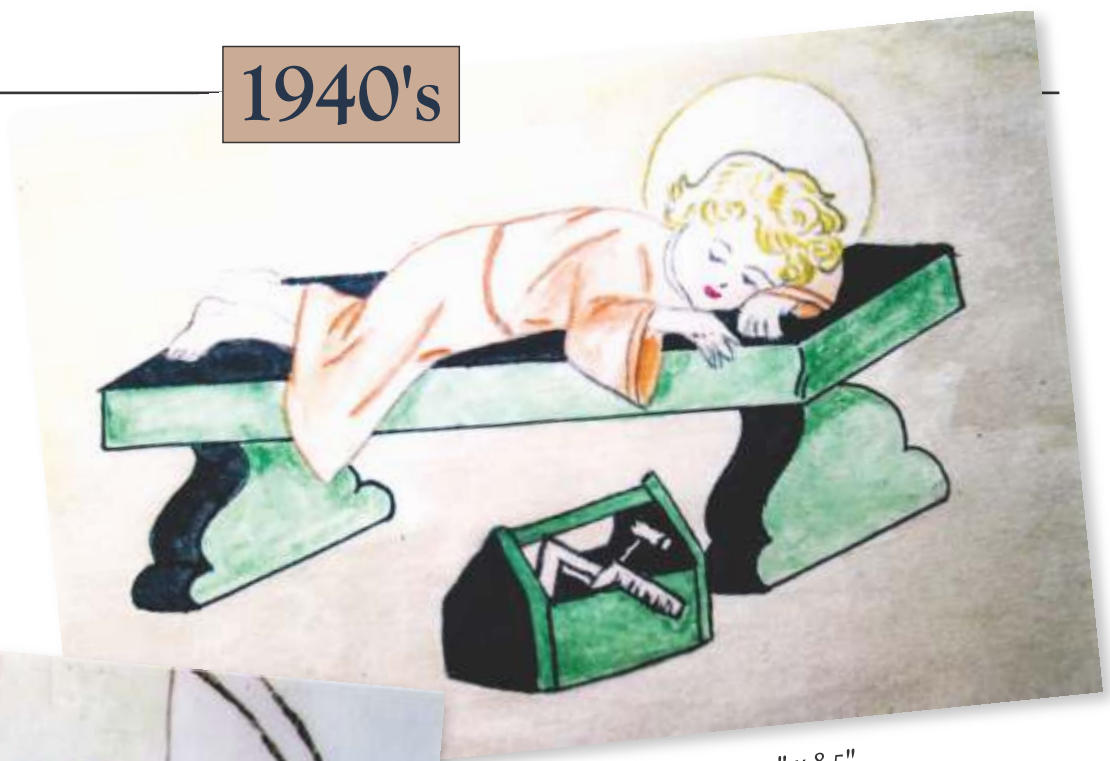
TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECADE	PAGES
1940's.....	Pages 1 to 4
1950's.....	Pages 5 to 10
1960's	Pages 11 to 12
1970's	Pages 13 - 14
1980's	Pages 15 - 18
1990's	Pages 19 - 22
2000's.....	Pages 23 to 28
2010's	Pages 29 to 42
2020's	Pages 43 to 44

This book is dedicated to all who requested
Eleanor's artwork over the years.

1940's

In these, her mainly grade school years, Eleanor began copying holy pictures and winning student art contests. Before the decade was out, she had already landed a part-time commercial artist job.



Watercolour - 11" x 8.5"

When she was in Grade 4 (9 years old), and was studying Mexico, she was asked to draw on the blackboard, a Mexican with a sombrero, cactus plants and ponchos.

Eleanor's grade 6 teacher was Mrs. Kennedy, who was very encouraging. She gave her some "white" watercolour paint, which she still uses today - 77 years later!!

Also, in Grade 6 (11 years old) the Catholic School Board had a project for Windsor schools - the lessons during the year on our Catholic Faith - Her book won 1st prize (there were 54 watercolour pieces).

The same project in Grade 7 (12 years old) and she won 1st prize.

Her grade 7 teacher was Sister Mary Catherine. She had her represent the school for education week. Eleanor had to sit in the window of a department store (Smiths) and paint a watercolour. She did a nativity scene. Sister Mary Catherine also connected Eleanor with a shop to paint and fix broken statues.



Jesus - son of Joseph, a drawing for new chapter. Watercolour on a 8.5" x 11" sheet.



The Jesuit Martyrs of Canada. Water colour on an 11" x 8.5" sheet.

Her grade 9 teacher at St. Joseph, Sister Mary Helen and other nuns visited an ART studio every Saturday in Detroit. She met them at the tunnel entrance to go across on the bus with her parent's permission. Eleanor was able to copy and produce several pieces of "commercial" art in "Pen and Ink" over several months.

Also, while in Grade 9, Eleanor painted an entry for the "Fire Prevention" poster contest for Ontario High Schools. She won 1st prize, with a picture in the Windsor Star and received the \$100 award.

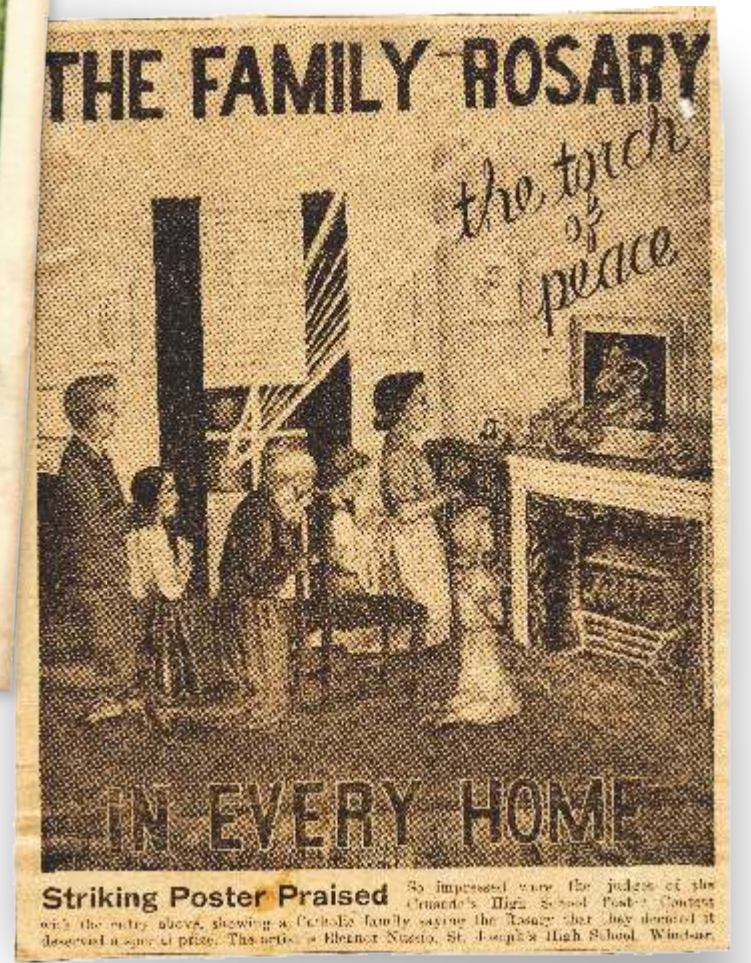


Copy in water colours - 4" x 5"

The same teacher also had her paint oil colour portraits of Saints for the convent in London and requested a large painting (approx. 6' x 3') of St. Peter and the Twelve Apostles. It was a gift for St. Peters' new school in Riverside at that time.

While still in high school, she used textile paints to paint St. Aloysius on a satin banner for a church in Chatham. Later, she used these same materials to paint flowers on aprons.

One of the many cards she made depicting art of old, famous, Italian painters.



Poster paint on bristol board 22" x 27".

Eleanor also completed a poster to promote the family rosary which was printed in the Windsor Star.

1940's

Sister Mary Helen received permission for Eleanor to attend an adult oil painting class at Willistead Art Gallery in the evenings, taught by Sergio Dipaoli. She attended these classes for several months, painting still life arrangements and also portraits of models.

This teacher found her a part-time Saturday job painting doll faces at a doll making factory in East Windsor on Tecumseh Road.

At the age of 15 she saw an ad in the Windsor paper for an artist to work at Gibson's Ad Agency and to apply with a sample. She drew a Geisha girl in pen and ink and started working after school for 25 cents per hour. The work was automotive drawings for Chrysler brochures, etc. When summer came, she worked all day for 35 cents per hour until school started in September.

1950's

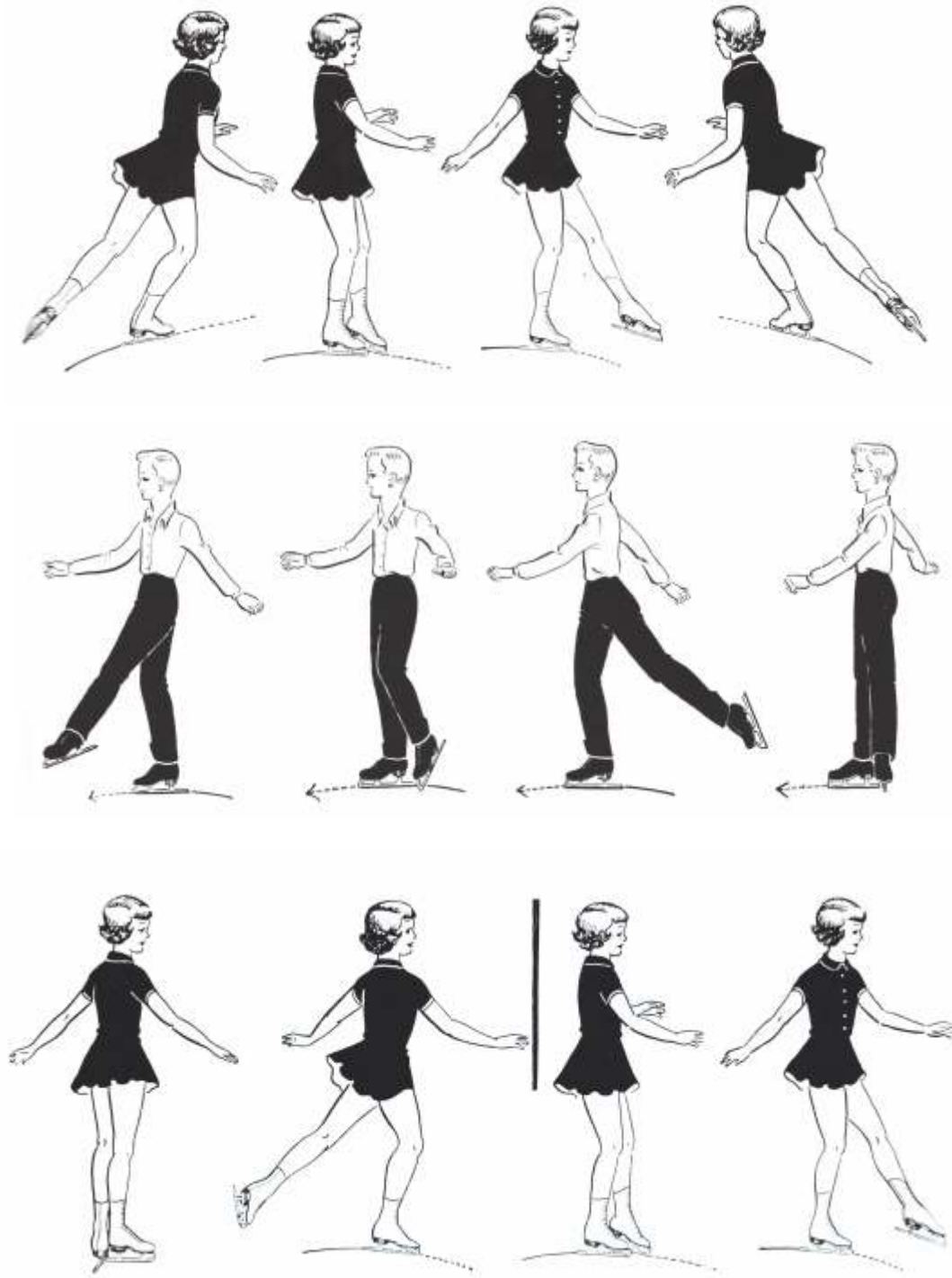


This is a copy of a letter that she decorated and mailed to her uncle who had gone back for a visit to Italy.

At that time, Eleanor continued to paint aprons with flowers using textile paint.

1950's

When she was at University, a teacher, Fr. Cornelius Crowley who was a friend of Michael Kirby and skating partner, Barbara Ann Scott (both Olympic champion pairs), arranged for her to draw diagrams and skaters for their new book "Skating for Beginners".



Pen and ink work

1950's

She worked at Hoffman's Restored Antiques fixing and painting broken china.

Eleanor also did drawings for "Windsor 1954 Centennial Festival" booklet, produced by Assumption University. This consisted of 9 full page drawings for each section, plus side drawings.

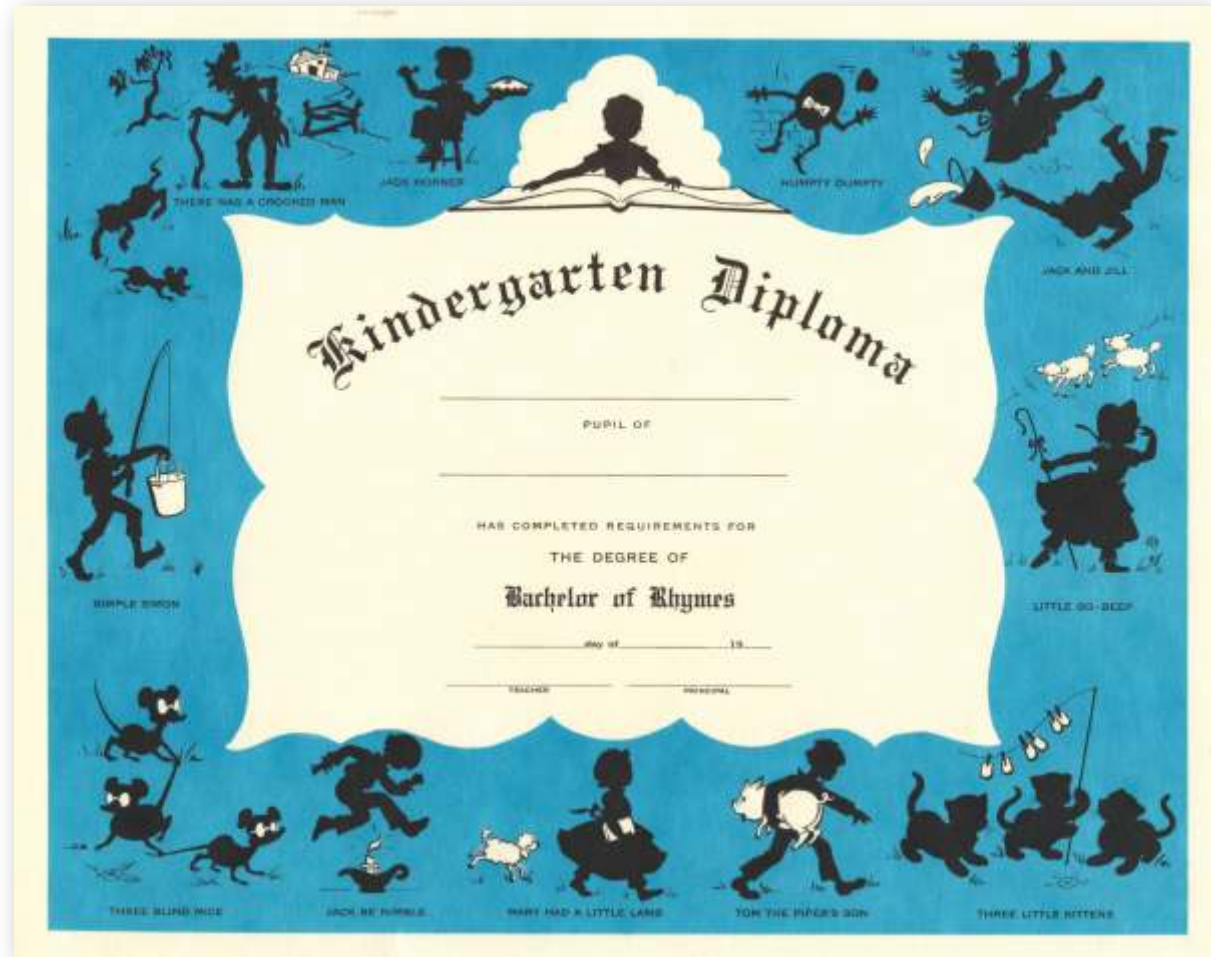


Watercolours with pen and ink for an 8.5" x 11" book .

1950's

In 1958, shortly after she was married, her husband started his own printing business, Windsor Print & Litho (which he had for 49 years). This was a great opportunity for Eleanor to help with commercial art projects, brochures, labels, logos, etc. At the same time she was raising her young children.

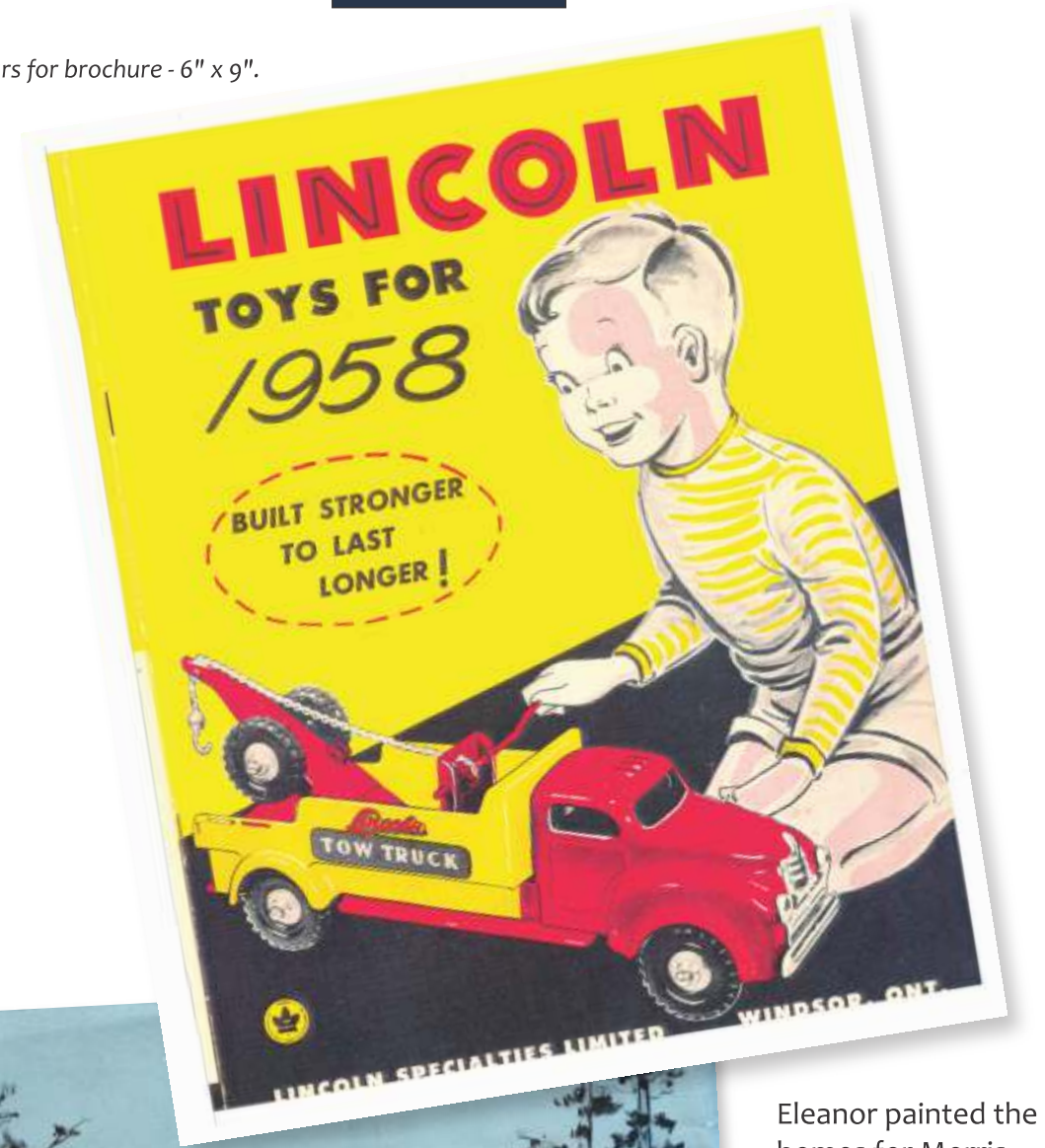
Her first art job for Windsor Print and Litho.



Pen and ink

1950's

Watercolours for brochure - 6" x 9".



Watercolour on 11" x 8.5" sheet.

Eleanor painted the model homes for Morris Construction brochures. This one was the home Eleanor and Harold moved into after they were married.

1960's

This decade saw Eleanor heavily into commercial art assignments and busy caring for a continually expanding family. With Harold's printing business also growing, she worked periodically as the firm's primary shop artist.



Illustrations were needed for 8.5" x 11" Marine Hardware brochures.
Pen and ink

1960's



Illustrations for 8.5" x 11" Hotti Tackle Company brochure. Pen and ink.

1970's

In this decade Eleanor was extremely busy with her now six children and numerous requests for her art talents. She also created numerous works for her church and the kid's school at this time.

Other items also completed in this decade:

- Banners designed for the Church:
- Welcome and Good-bye receptions for new and old priests
- Invitations for various events in Church Hall
- Christmas
- St. Patrick's Day
- Easter
- Halloween
- Valentines
- Spring and Summer Socials



This menu cover won 1st in Canadian Restaurant Menu Awards 1970's.

5" x 7" watercolour

1970's

As a member of St. Gregory the Great Parish Ladies Auxilary, she contributed posters and hall decorations for various events.

During this decade Eleanor had a new baby while raising her other five children. They had two floods at their lakefront home and Harold was on the village council for three terms.

1980's

This decade showed her impressive versatility across a huge range of art projects in different media. Eleanor continued responding to requests for commercial art. Later in these years, she also began a series of paintings on rocks.

Eleanor's daughter, Mary, requested a Stage Banner for her Nurses Graduation Dinner. Then a classmate requested a 'similar' banner for her wedding. The orders for weddings and anniversary celebrations continued.

The banner designs were all flowers and letters and all at least 6 ft long.



Coloured bristol board sheets (cut, paste and colour poster paint). Approximately 8' x 4'.

1980's

A watercolour painting of the new Compri Hotel in downtown Windsor was completed, even made it to a large billboard on Huron Line (a main street of Windsor)



Original was an 11" x 14" watercolour.

1980's

Eleanor began painting on rocks in the 80's. Her daughter Mary saw a cat painted on a rock in a shop at the Eaton Centre in Toronto. She suggested her mother should paint on some rocks that were collected on a holiday out West years before. The first 17 rocks were painted with images of rabbits, raccoons, horses, birds, cats, bears and geese. These were purchased by the gift shop at the Windsor Art Gallery. Below are some of those early rocks.

By 1987 she had painted approximately 158 rocks. Eleanor continued painting with images of people's pets and flowers. After 2010 she began painting 'Holy' rocks with images of Pope Francis, St. Joseph, St Teresa, etc.

She began keeping track of the number of rocks painted starting in 2015.



Each rock was painted with acrylic paint and finished with a clear protective spray. Photograph by Rocky Ieriaci

1980's

More of her assignments:

Menus:

Mady's Big Boy Drive Inn
Placemat for Lumerjack Restaurant

Logo designs:

International Tools Ltd.
Underground Specialties,
Tecumseh Afterhours Clinic
Sunrise Aviaries
Absolute Home Improvements
J.H. Cada Design Studio
Columbus Pizza

Labels:

Pelee Island Winery
Colio Wines
Remark Farms

Newspaper ads:

Four Seasons Furs of Windsor
Mamma Roni Submarines
The Village Boutique
Mamzell Fashions
Baubles Jewelry



For newspaper - pen and ink



Watercolour painting for a book cover - 8.5" x 11".

1990's

Eleanor continued to work full time at Windsor Print and Litho in the 90's.

Eleanor also began producing numerous art pieces for her new grandchildren during these years.



7" x 9" watercolour



Postcard and label for items - pen and ink.

1990's



While her husband, Harold, was in the hospital in London with severe health problems, she stayed in residence across from the hospital after visiting hours. During this time Eleanor painted watercolours (size 9 x 12) - 35 assorted subjects: scenes, animals, nursery rhymes, flowers, children, fruit, etc.



Watercolours - 9" x 12" on vertical and horizontal boards.

1990's

Standing cardboard figures (approx. 2 feet tall) of the Seven Dwarfs. for her granddaughter's birthday surprise.



Coloured poster boards and poster paint - 10" x 24"

Christina and Katerina with their birthday visitors.

In this decade, Eleanor directed her talents toward numerous church, school and family posters for various events. She continued to complete artwork in many different types of media. Answering author requests, she also created many book illustrations during these years.

Hall decorations for Ladies Auxiliary card party.
Poster paint on bristol board.



Several large poster type pieces for a Christmas event at Tecumseh Arena for the Optimist Group.

Poster paint - approximately 22" x 30"

2000's



More work for church hall events - April Card Party (acrylic on poster boards)



She illustrated 8 children's books for Arnot McCallum.

Pen and ink book covers printed - 5.5 x 8.5

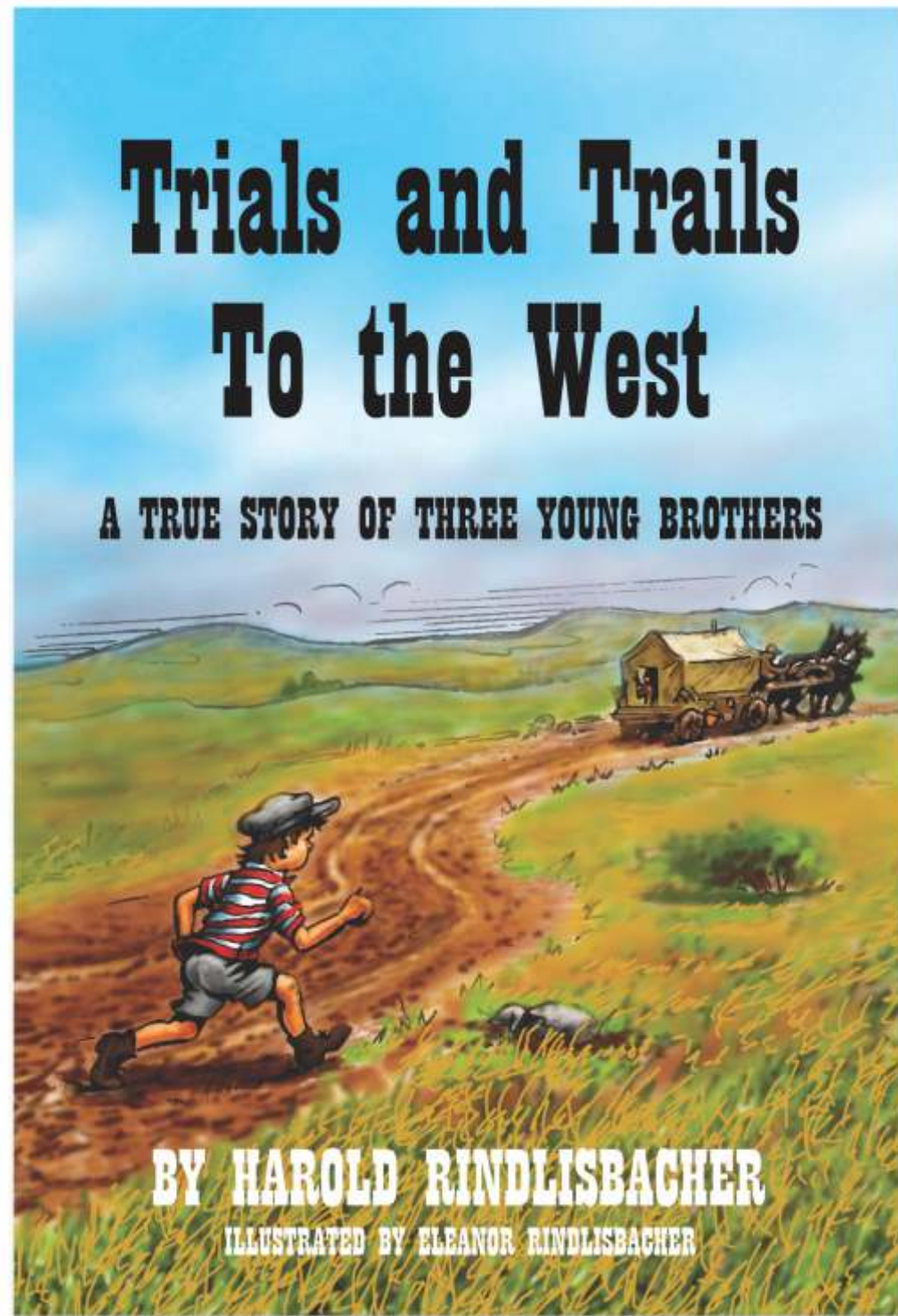
2000's

As a member of the Ladies Auxiliary at her church, Eleanor created decorations for various events. Each piece was 2'-3' tall.



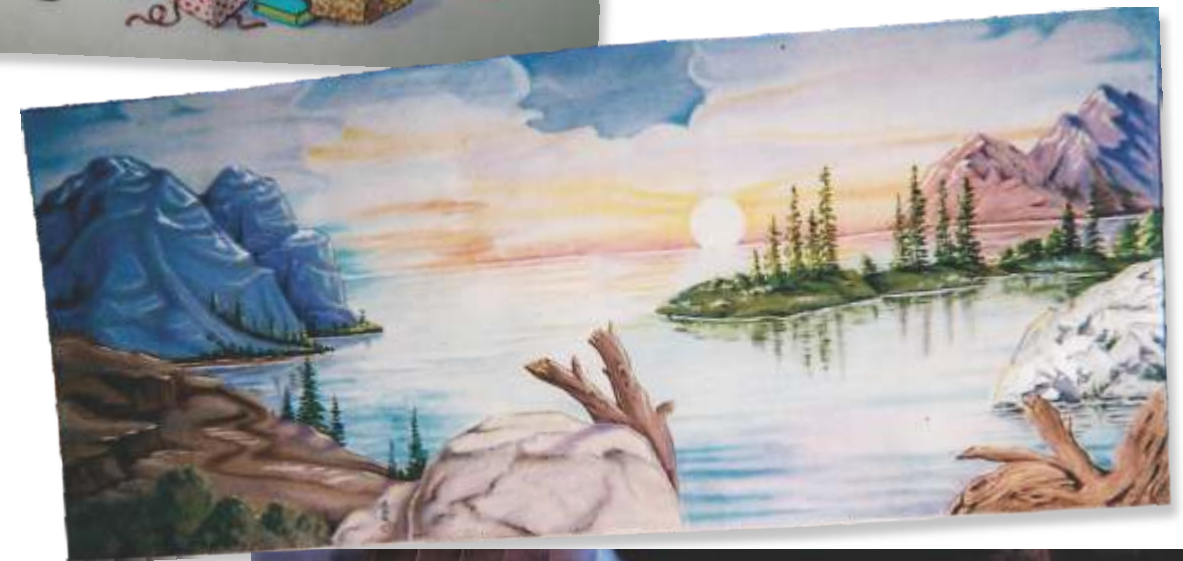
Poster paint on coloured poster sheets.

This is a cover she illustrated for Harold's auto biographical book (90 pages), "Trials and Trails to the West". Eleanor did 23 pen and ink illustrations for the book



5.5" x 8.5" pen and ink drawing, digitally coloured by her son Peter.

During these years, Eleanor completed about 50 poster projects for stage plays held at a church hall in Windsor.



Approximately 6' x 4' and 8' x 4'.
Poster paint on supplied boards.



Illustrating - The "Guardian Angels" for 8 of her granddaughters.



Pen and ink drawings.

More book illustrations continued during these years. In this decade, she also returned to rock paintings on a wide range of subjects that continued into the next decade.

Unusual Projects for the BIA of Erie Street:

- Painting a 3 1/2 diameter round wooden table top with a copy of a sculpture in Italy - 'Bocca della Verita, the Mouth of Truth'
- Painting a 15ft high replica of the 'Leaning Tower of Pisa'



Large cardboard commercial cylinders glued together and painted with 'outdoor' enamel.



Original sculpture



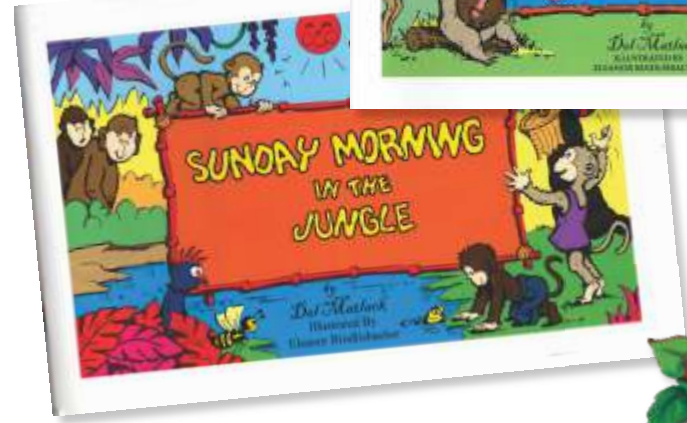
Oil paint on wood

2010's

Eleanor was asked to illustrate 3 children's books - Stories about monkeys and jungle animals.



8.5" x 5.5" watercolours



Banner for Father Al Williams' reception in the church hall.



Banner for Father Chris Bourdeau.
Poster paint on bristol board

A flyer for the new church, Good Shepherd Parish, at a new location using Eleanor's winning logo.



Pen and ink logo

2010's



Approximately 8" x 9"

She started to put together and paint table centrepieces made of coloured felt.

They were in round, square or rectangular shapes. Most were of various flowers such as daisies, sunflowers, roses, petunias, and assorted blossoms. Some were a collection of fruit or just strawberries. (As of August 2023 - 988 centre pieces.)

Pastel shadowing on cut felt pieces glued together

Her daughter Julie asked for two wooden panels to be painted to cover up boarded windows for a Windsor Community project where teens were painting old wooden houses.

The following year she painted panels to cover 6 boarded windows on an old surface. Three were 8' x 4' Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and Sleeping Beauty. Smaller ones were Jack in the Beanstalk, Three Little Pigs and Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf.



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs



Little Red Riding Hood



Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Acrylic paint on large wood panels, door and window sized.

A drawing of the old Lakewood Clubhouse building which used to be located at Riverside and Manning. The original is hanging in the main entrance hall of the nearby Chartwell Residence.



Watercolours - Approximately 20" x 16"

In 2017, a nephew's friend requested paintings of his Italian ancestors from photo copies. Thirteen were completed.



Acrylic paint on board - 36" x 12"

2010's



Some of these were for Christmas events for the Optimist Club.



Poster paint on bristol board trimmed and assembled. Approximately 25" tall.



2010's

Eleanor worked on a children's book written by a friend from high school, Pat Kirwin Renaud ("Kathi on the Moon Beam") - 26 illustrations were completed for her book.



All done in watercolours - 8.5" x 8.5"



2010's

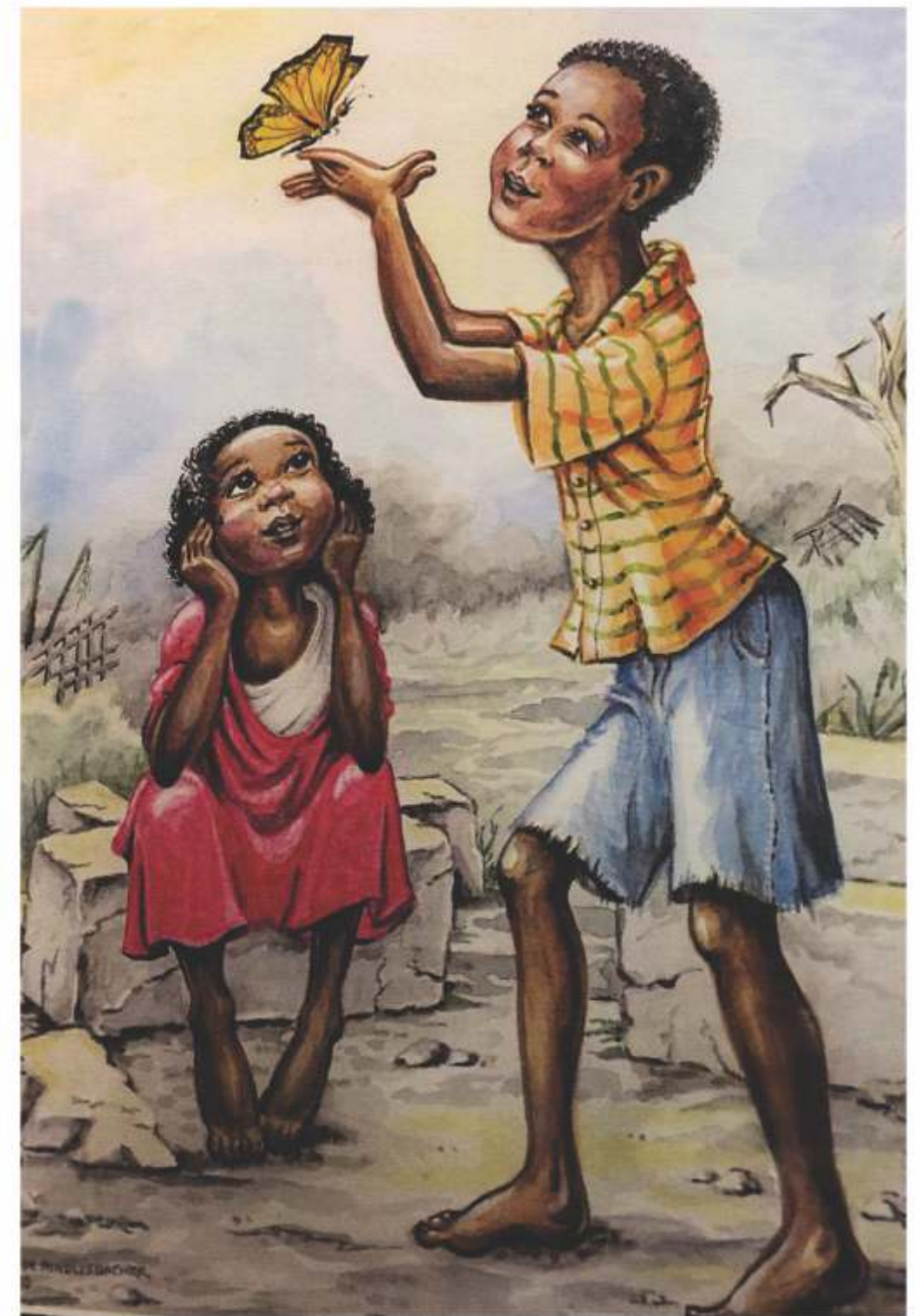
Denim squares for quilts painted by Eleanor and assembled by her sister Mary: assorted animals, 28 nursery rhyme designs on blue denim, 28 cats and kittens and assorted flowers.



Textile paint on denim, 8" x 8" squares

2010's

Painting donated to a fundraiser for Haiti.



Painted with acrylic on canvas board - Approximately 12" x 18"

2010's



Many rocks painted from photos of pets.



Mother Teresa



St. Joseph



St. Patrick



Painted many rocks for a "Ukrainian" fundraiser. (National flower).

2010's



St. Theresa

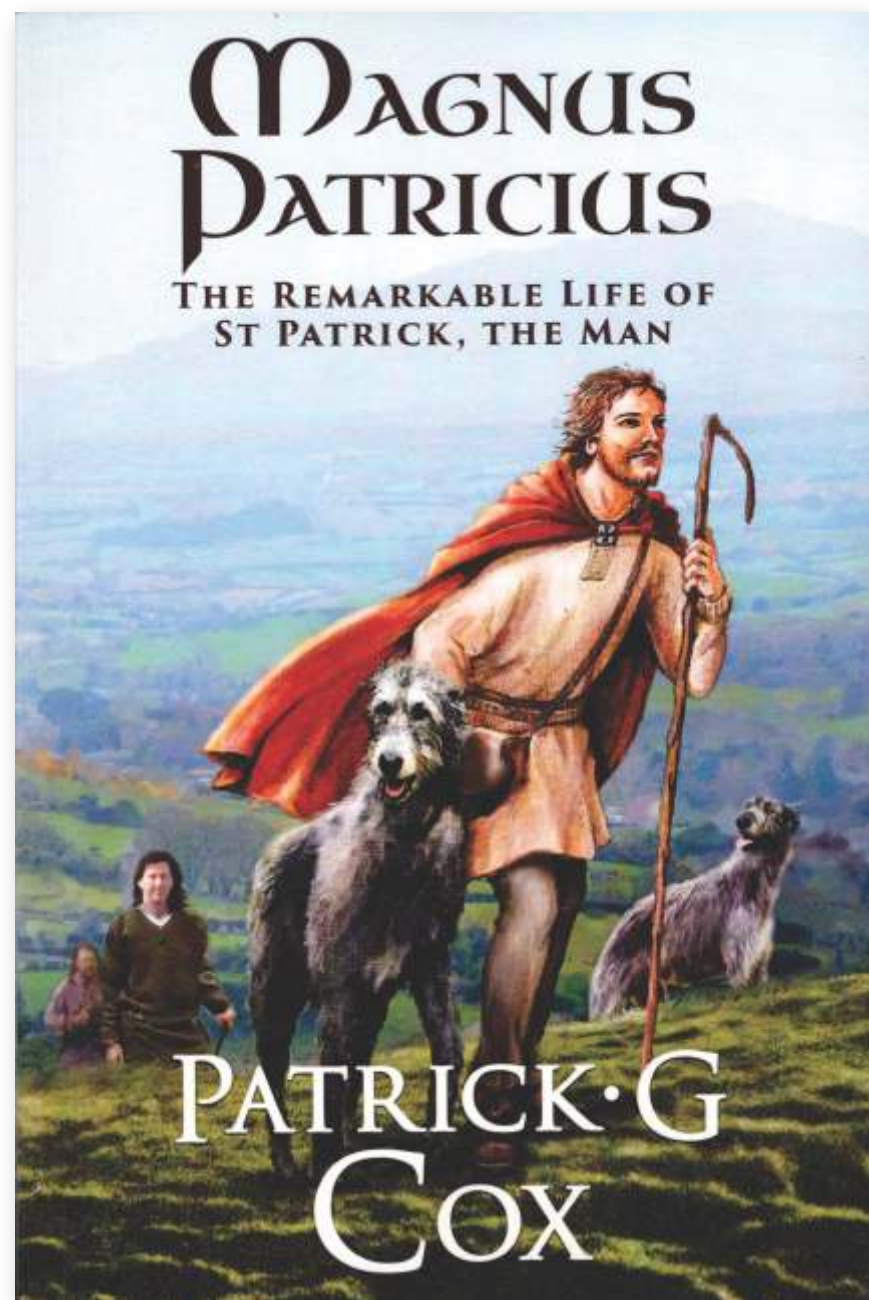


Lord Nelson

She started painting rocks again in 2015 (had not painted any for 13 yrs).

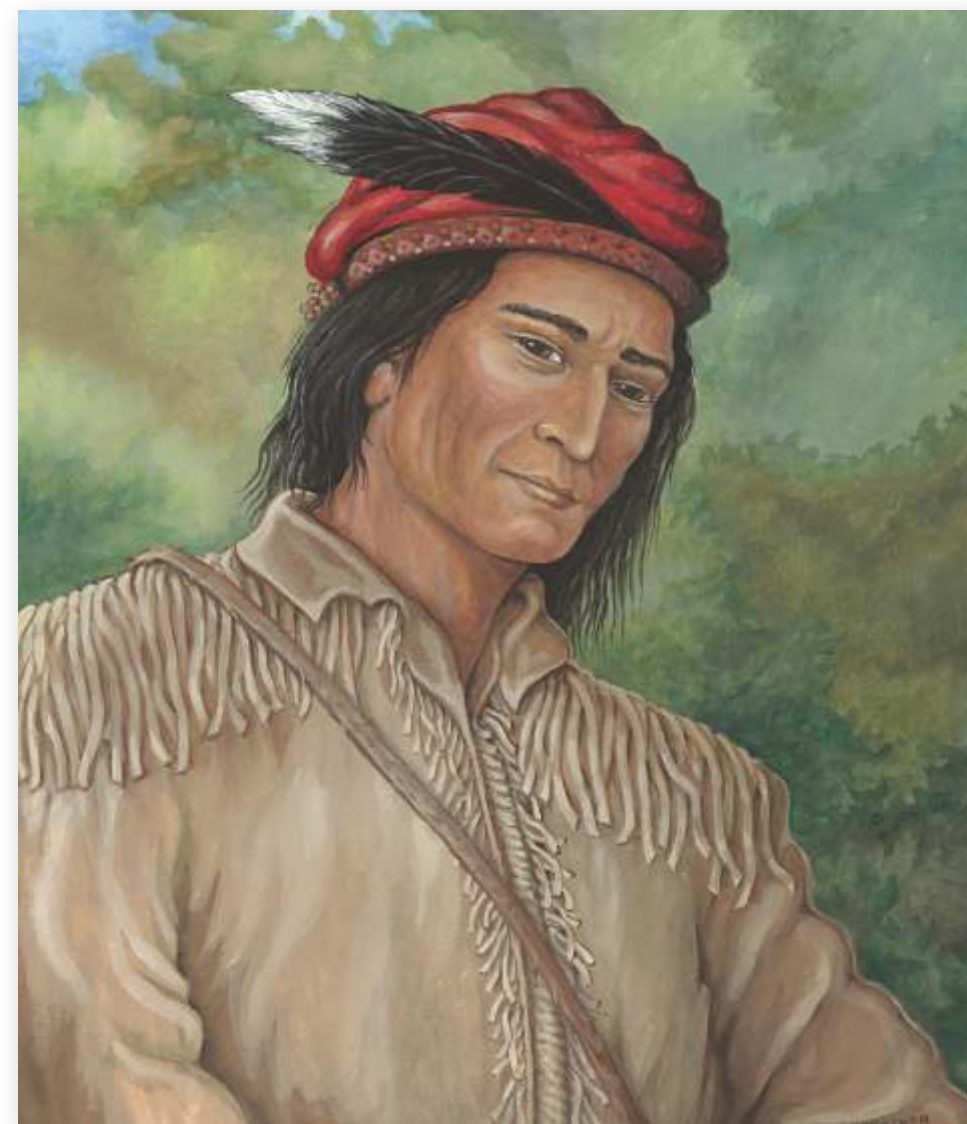
As they celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in this decade and Harold's health failed, Eleanor became his primary caregiver, which claimed much time from her days and nights. After his passing in 2016, she surprised her family with the volume and variety of artwork produced.

Cover painting for a book on St Patrick, 'Magnus Patricius'.



Book cover size 5" x 7". The main character on the cover is Eleanor's water colour. The surrounding composition is composed digitally by her son Peter.

Anniversary portrait of Chief Tecumseh - a project researched by her son Tom.



Acrylic on canvas board, 16" x 20", varnished.

Chief Tecumseh
250th Anniversary (1768 - 1813)

From the artists notes:

"This new portrait of Tecumseh was commissioned to commemorate the 250th year of his birth. After many variations of his image developed over the last 200 years, now a scientific approach, with the latest technology was applied. Using an 1808 "pencil sketch", a detailed War of 1812 eye witness description, Shawnee photos, imaging software and 70 years of illustration experience, Eleanor Rindlisbacher of Tecumseh, Ontario has recreated Tecumseh. The original painting is 16" x 20" acrylic and watercolour on canvas board."

Commissioned scene of smelt fishing on Lake Erie



Acrylic on canvas - 20" x 16"

On their mother's request, Eleanor painted this picture from a photo of her grandchildren, Victoria and Benjamin.



Acrylic on canvas - 14" x 11"

This art project consisted of painting on wooden boards. Approximately 10" x 20"



Acrylic paint, sprayed with clear varnish



Acrylic painted rocks

(As of August 2023, Eleanor has painted 3055 rocks.)

August 2023, Eleanor stated:

“Early on, I enjoyed the compliments I got from doing artwork. Later, I liked the challenge of doing the best for someone’s requests. And lately, I’m glad to have something to do with my time.”



Artist - Eleanor Rindlisbacher

From immigrant parents arriving in Canada in 1931, Eleanor Rindlisbacher (b. 1933) has been a prolific and versatile artist for her entire life. After winning art awards in grade school, she worked part-time in high school, designing brochures for a company supplying Chrysler Corporation. Her marriage in 1955 to a printing company owner saw her working as a commercial artist off and on, (while raising her six children) creating logos, billboards, menu art, brochures, etc. from 1957 to 2005.

In addition to that work, Eleanor has produced many posters and decorations for church hall dinners, socials and dedications. More recently, she has illustrated child and adult books, book covers, murals for City of Windsor projects, portraits and a logo for her church. Rock painting and felt centerpieces are her latest creations. Beginning those in the 1980's, to date she has completed over 3000 paintings on rocks and over 600 felt centre pieces. With her brushes and artistic eye, Eleanor enjoys capturing beauty in pets, flowers, saints and commissioned people subjects.