

Jeanie's Gift of Beauty

Donation of art boosts reserve church, MANS students



Passion for a Lifetime: Jeanie Spratt (aka "AJ McCoy") began drawing at the age of three. Though she had planned to be a nurse, "The Lord has some interesting ways of twisting and turning out lives," she says, and she is happy for His leading into art and the inspiration she is able to share with others. Reproductions of her paintings, the originals of which are owned by such collectors as Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, are online at www.ajmccoyart.com. Jeanie's artwork supports the Maskwacis Adventist Church, which recently expanded by the baptism of four local reserve members.



Jeanie's artwork will be on display at the Moses Strategy Celebration at Alberta Campmeeting, Monday, July 18, at 1:45 p.m. in the Lower Lodge. All are welcome!

Jeanie and Bob Spratt are adventurous by nature. The couple, who are passionate about the conference's mission in Maskwacis, came to Alberta to work with Native Ministries and fell in love with the children at Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS), where Bob became principal in 1994. Jeanie, who had worked at *Adventist Review* for eight and half years as an illustrator, signing her work as "AJ McCoy," soon found herself immersed in the life of the school and the mission church.

Jeanie's lush mural depicting the pastoral life of First Nations in a time past adorns the entrance to MANS, but no such artistic panorama greets visitors to the church—a rented facility on Samson band land. Jeanie would dearly love to see

a dedicated Seventh-day Adventist church, so she came up with a plan: she would use her artistic skill and recognition to help build up a church.

Jeanie, whose work is found in private collections—including those of the US Department of the Interior and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands—is directing the money she gets from sales of her work sold on www.ajmccoyart.com to the mission church in Maskwacis. Jeanie also has detailed plans for a naturalist baptistry that she'd dearly love to paint in a new church building—one dedicated to housing the Maskwacis Adventist congregation.

Jeanie's depiction of animals and nature testifies to the beauty of God's creation, and supports a cause that is

dear to her—one that will change the course of many lives, including two adults and two youths from the reserve who recently requested baptism.

Though "AJ McCoy" has raised funds for wildlife conservation; been exhibited by Game Conservation International; and published in Winchester Press, *Sports and Field*, *Montana Outdoors*, and *Signs of the Times*, Jeanie has chosen to ultimately put her treasure where her heart is: the Adventist mission church of Maskwacis. ■

Lynn McDowell is Director of Planned Giving/Philanthropy for the Alberta Conference.