

## Ted Harrison Celebrates 40-Year Milestone

In 1995, the Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation made the acquaintance of one of Canada's most "colourful" artists, when we were invited to co-host an event honoring Ted Harrison. As a senior and caregiver for his wife, Nicky, who was then in the early stages of Alzheimer's Disease, Ted appreciated the work of the Eldercare Foundation. In turn, we found him a shining example of all the wonderful qualities possessed by the elders in our community. We were thrilled when he agreed to act as an Honorary Director, a position he held from 1996 to 2004.

Now 83, Ted is celebrating 40 years as a Canadian artist. This milestone is marked by many special events including the release of *Ted Harrison: Painting Paradise*, his first-ever biography; significant gifts of paintings to the people of Canada and exhibitions of his work.

His biography, drawn from unpublished letters, notes and documents, gives a complete and knowing portrait of one of our country's most esteemed national treasures. Victoria author Katherine Gibson, the foremost authority on Ted Harrison, based *Ted Harrison: Painting Paradise* on unpublished documents, letters, diaries, and numerous interviews with Ted. The book, which took four years to complete, is colour-illustrated with 78 images of his work and rare photographs spanning 60 years.

In 1995, Ted created, and then donated, an original painting for auction at the event hosted by the Eldercare Foundation and the Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children's Health. Since then, he has shown great generosity in helping us, and many other charities, in our fundraising efforts. Generous with his knowledge, time and talent, Ted Harrison has also made major gifts to the people of Canada valued at more than \$500,000. British Columbia received *Vast Yukon* and *View of British Columbia*, west coast murals originally painted on the walls of Ted and Nicky's home and now in the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building, University of Victoria. The Yukon Arts Centre received the 27 original illustrations from *The Cremation of Sam McGee* and *The Shooting of Dan McGrew*, Robert Service poems Ted illustrated in the 1980s. And, to the children of Canada, Ted gave the twelve original illustrations from his book, *O Canada*. The University of Alberta received the 26 original illustrations from *A Northern Alphabet*, the children's book that rocketed Ted Harrison to international acclaim in 1982.

Ted Harrison is a world-renowned artist, with his paintings hanging on gallery and private walls around the globe. He has written and illustrated several books and earned a long list of awards including the Order of Canada, the Order of British Columbia and four honorary doctorates. A retrospective exhibition of his work, being held at the Legacy Gallery & Café, 630 Yates Street, until November 30<sup>th</sup> is a rare opportunity to view Ted Harrison's work over six decades. And, in a novel twist, the Sew 'N Sews, a Sidney quilting club, have created a stunning art hanging inspired by Ted's west coast paintings. Signed, and valued at \$5,000, the hanging

will be raffled on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 15 at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney.  
For more information visit: [www.tedharrisonbiography.com](http://www.tedharrisonbiography.com) or call (250) 356-1990. For more information on the Eldercare Foundation visit: [www.gvef.org](http://www.gvef.org)

