

Arts & Leisure

Bringing colours to life

Watercolour Society paints a pretty picture

Northern News Services

In recent weeks, the Yellowknife Watercolour Society has been stepping things up a notch.

Thanks to an NWT Arts Council grant, the year-old society ran an extensive watercolour workshop, taught by painter Thomas Love from Edmonton, for three days at Northern United Place.

"I Googled 'Alberta watercolourists' and two people came up," said society founder Shawna Lampi-Legaree of how she picked Love. "I e-mailed three and only he

responded."

Fifteen aspiring Yellowknife artists got in on the act, creating works that reflected landscapes and still-life. These included Yellowknifers Pat Thagard, Brenda MacLeod and Leslie Singer (among others), as well as Karen Gelderman from Fort Simpson and Rosalie Gelderman, who travelled from Edmonton for the workshop.

"It was great," said Lampi-Legaree. "Nobody was stressed, (Love) was just really good."

She said she started the

society in 2005 as a way to branch out from her main passion: quilting. She said the workshop was a great way to learn the basics of watercolouring, such as proper use of colour and a key discipline: the patience to let colours dry.

The mostly-novice watercolourists learned a lot and Lampi-Legaree said she's looking forward to future workshops.

"We're hoping to have another instructor up in May," she said. As well, the society will meet Jan. 15 at Northern United Place.



photo courtesy of Shawna Lampi-Legaree

Pat Thagard works on a watercolour piece during a Yellowknife Watercolour Society workshop at Northern United Place.



photo courtesy of Shawna Lampi-Legaree

Participants in the watercolour workshop hold up their work. In the front row, from left, Karen Gelderman, Pat Thagard, Brenda MacLeod, Leslie Singer, Diane Magnusson, Margaret D'hont, Ann Timmons and instructor Thomas Love. In the back row, from left is Gord Arychuk, Simone Goudreau, Martin Dubeau, Daryl Sexsmith, Pat Aikens, Heather Hayne, Rosalie Gelderman and Shawna Lampi-Legaree.