



McCarthy's cataloguing system proves the point of the artist's productivity. Upon completion, each painting is noted numerically with the year, the month, and finally, the day. So the bulk of the artist's canvases have 06, 07 or 08 for the month segment of the cataloguing. These paintings were completed in June, July or August when McCarthy is in residence on the Bay. To further narrow down the mystery, most oil canvases are 06 or 07 for June or July. McCarthy always paints the oil canvases first to allow them to dry and moves to watercolors in August. The small sketches, either oil or watercolor, are done on site during painting trips and their months are likely to be April or June (May is the month to be home). Added to this are the occasional painting trips in the fall or the winter. Even rarer, McCarthy would paint a canvas in her winter studio. (All 5 x 7 canvases are done in Toronto as McCarthy had no way of transporting these large canvases back and forth from Georgian Bay, without significant cost.) ☼

*About the author: Lynne Atkinson is McCarthy's close friend and confidante. She is a Carling cottager; co-owner of the Whistlestop in Parry Sound; and, the executive director of the West Parry Sound Health Centre Foundation.*



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