

Community Arts



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Ordinary miracles

➤ Artist Jonathan Havelock captures stunning vistas on Alberta's less-travelled roads



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When Jonathan Havelock travelled Alberta as a cabinet minister, his trips were all about the destination. The only evidence of wide open spaces between cities and towns was found on his odometer.

"When I was driving, I was focused on the road and I didn't notice what was around me," Havelock says.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Twenty years later, the canola

fields are brighter, the storm clouds more mysterious and the light that reflects off prairie ponds sparks conversation in galleries and living rooms.

Havelock, president of a government-relations consulting company, does less driving for business these days, but spends many hours on the road photographing the most beautiful scenes he can find. When he has an image he's happy with, he uses digital editing to enhance the depth, colour and texture.

"I'm trying to make what's familiar unfamiliar by presenting it in a different way," Havelock says.

He had his first public show at last year's Capital Ex and his landscapes were so popular he is this year's featured artist in the exhibition's Northwest Originals art show.

Havelock began experimenting with digital art about two-

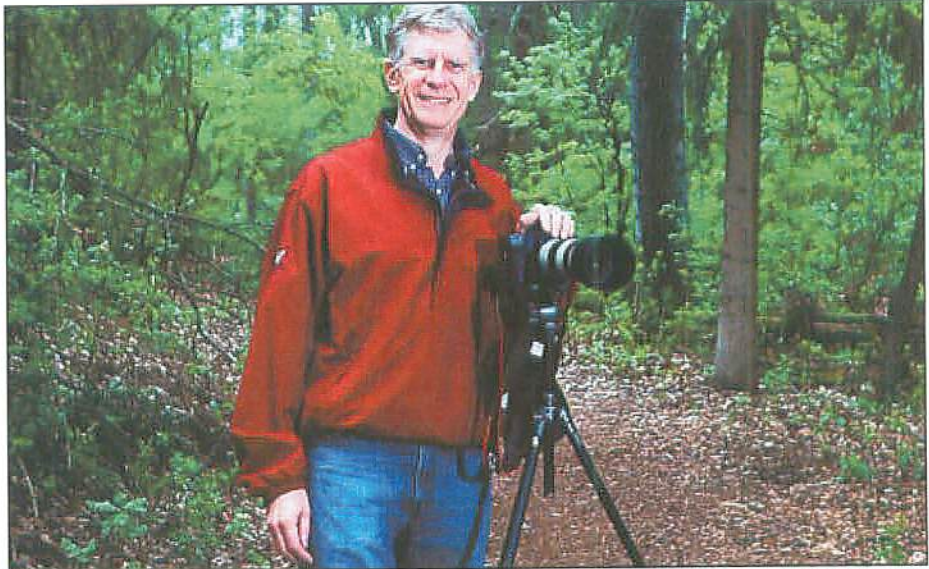


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ABOVE: Artist Jonathan Havelock poses for a photo in the ravine near his Glenora home. Havelock, a former Alberta cabinet minister, is the featured artist at Capital Ex's Northwest Originals exhibition.

BELOW: *Glow*, photographed west of Edmonton.
BOTTOM LEFT: *Tranquillity*, photographed in Edmonton's river valley.

and-a-half years ago.

"My dad passed away and my wife decided she needed to get my mind on something else," he says.

She bought him a simple photo-editing program and before long he was creating his first set of limited-edition prints. His Ocean Reflections series amplifies harbour views on Canada's east and west coasts.

Havelock planned to create a national series with a photo representing each province but he enjoyed photographing Alberta so much he put the plan on hold.

His goal is to take ordinary sights and, through digital layering and stylizing, help Albertans see their everyday surroundings in a new light.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Havelock and his wife routinely leave their Glenora home to spend hours on Alberta's less travelled roads seeking vistas that capture the imagination. He says it has changed the way they see their home province and enhanced their quality of life.



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"We have a better appreciation of our environment and all this province has to offer," Havelock says.

His prints, limited to five of each landscape, are selling quickly for between \$550 and \$1,250 apiece.

At Capital Ex, he'll sell pieces from his Alberta collection, as

well as some recent photographs of Edmonton cityscapes. Havelock will be on hand daily to meet visitors to the Northwest Originals exhibition, located in Hall C at the Edmonton Expo Centre. Exhibition hours are noon to 11 p.m. from July 23 to Aug. 1.
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