



## ARTIST Susan Mein

**Thomas Elton**

This is a wonderful time of year to renew our spirit with peace and fulfillment. Welcome to the magical world of Susan Mein where small towns come to life as children skate in the moonlight and snow falls quietly on a village street; images that will surely stir your memories and tug at your heartstrings! Her loving paintings of Victorian scenes effortlessly transport viewers to a kinder, gentler time.

Susan grew up in nearby Tottenham in the early 60's when the population was barely more than 600 people. The rural landscape and carefree simplicity of growing up in a small town left an indelible impression on

her life! "Growing up in a quaint small town where my Mom and Dad were always close-by always gave me the warmest and most secure feeling I could ever imagine."

When she was only 4 years old, Susan started painting soon after receiving a small watercolour set from Santa Claus. As a self-taught artist, she eventually switched later in life to more brightly coloured, fast-drying acrylic paints. This opened up a whole new world, giving her boundless freedom of self-expression.

The nineteenth century clergyman and social reformer Henry Ward Beecher said "Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures". He

also said “The art of being happy lies in the power of extracting happiness from common things”. This is the endowment that Susan’s paintings bestow, both on her and the admirers of her art. She always finds inspiration in the everyday and commonplace; the landscape and architecture of the familiar and the well-loved to remind all of us to treasure our rich pioneer and architectural heritage. Her paintings celebrate a bygone era with a strong sense of family and togetherness. And if you look very closely, you will see the family’s much loved white cat, Fluffy, hidden away in all of her pictures!

Susan paints daily at her home in the Hockley Highlands and can often be seen walking throughout our community carrying a camera and sketch pad. You can view all of her paintings online by visiting her website at [www.susanmein.ca](http://www.susanmein.ca). Some of her highly detailed original works, limited edition prints and even greeting cards, can be seen by visiting the South Simcoe Arts Council, 41 Victoria St. E in Alliston. ■



My Mother's Store (Tottenham)



Before the Bell Rings (Hockley)



Lunch at the Globe (Rosemont)