

## **Diana Gauvin Bio**

**My name is Diana Gauvin and I was born on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1953, in Toronto, where I spent most of my young life. At the age of 21 I moved to London, Ontario and in 1986 decided to embrace rural living and settled into my present home just south-west of Parkhill, Ontario.**

**From a very young age I had a passion for art and all things “artsy” and dabbled in a variety of mediums. I had always envisioned myself going to the Ontario College of Art, but life took me in a different direction, so I have received no formal training and therefore have been self-taught. Around the age of 13, I had become obsessed with the works of the “Group of Seven”, particularly the work of Tom Thompson and the mystery surrounding his death.**

**At that time, and because of my interest, I begged my parents to take me to the “McMichael Gallery” situated just north of Toronto, where many of the “Sevens” paintings are housed. While touring the gallery and standing in front of a painting that had particularly impressed me, a very elderly gentleman in a wheelchair had quietly come up beside me.**

**He asked if I was enjoying my visit and was I possibly an artist myself? Shyly I answered “I think so, I love to paint,” “Then you have a passion for it, don’t ever stop” he said. He then asked what my name was and after I told him, he reached out his hand to shake mine and said “Hello Diana I’m A. Y. Jackson and it’s been a pleasure talking to you”. With that, he turned and left. I could hardly believe that I had just met the last surviving member of the “Group of Seven”.**

**I only have to remember that brief encounter to be inspired to pick up a brush again.**