

GRAND ROUNDS

Young local artist selected for RVH holiday card

One of Megan Hazen's aspirations was to eventually have her talent recognized and printed on the front of the annual Tree of Lights card.

Imagine her surprise to be chosen at just 21 years of age as the campaign's feature artist.

"I wasn't expecting anything for a couple of years at least," says the RCI alum.

Hazen is currently in her final year at OCAD University (formerly the Ontario College of Art and Design) in Toronto, working towards a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Her third year of study was spent in Florence, Italy as part of OCADU's Florence Off-Campus Studies Program: "It was an amazing opportunity. I had art history

courses with a historian in Italy, in all of the famous museums and galleries. It was a complete dream come true."

Once back home for the summer break, she was approached to create a piece specifically for the 2016 Tree of Lights card.

"I find growing up in a small town like Renfrew, the community is so supportive and I'm very honoured to be selected," she says, noting that former high school teacher Micheal Wright was one of the people who mentioned Hazen's artistic abilities to the Foundation.

She's also grateful for the years of encouragement from her mentor Diana Wakely, whose work has also been featured on the card. "For RVH to choose local

artists and play into that sense of support, it's an amazing opportunity for us."

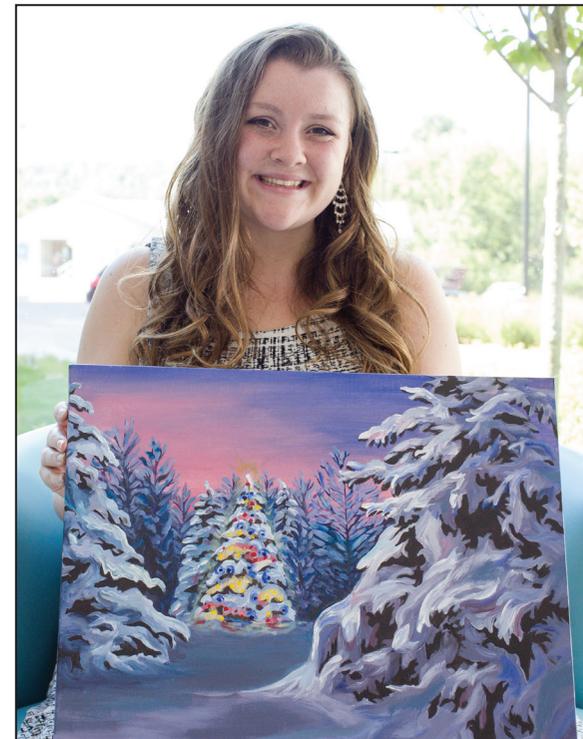
"I took the tree of lights literally," Hazen says about the process for her piece. "I instantly had so many images in my head."

The self-proclaimed lover of colour said she wanted to explore tones and incorporate as much colour into the wintery scene as possible.

"I was thinking of light and different types of light; the light in the tree and light in the sunset and the light coming through in the shadows of the snow."

The cards have been appearing in boxes across Renfrew and area. Donations this year will support the ongoing redevelopment projects and equipment needs of RVH including oncology.

Hazen's grandfather was an oncology patient and she is proud to continue the RCI tradition of supporting services for cancer patients in Renfrew and beyond.



To make your contribution to this year's Tree of Lights campaign, visit the RVH Foundation office or visit rvhfoundation.com. Drop boxes are also located in local banks.