

# Still finding his focus



Novosad creates art from his art



## By Matt Harris

When it comes to his art, Dennis Novosad lives life by a simple rule — always find a way to grow and develop, otherwise you grow stale and stop developing.

The Fergus-based Novosad dedicates as much time as he can to his passion for painting, and he also has a sharp eye for photography. One look around his small St. Patrick Street studio will show his visitors that the two are

connected — he will often snap pictures of things that catch his eye, and then the pictures become a sort of visual sounding board for him. Ideas will bounce around inside his head while he looks at a photograph — what works, what doesn't, and how he wants to see it.

"I would say I'm an artist first and a photographer second," he said. "I took a picture of some boats moored to a dock when my wife and I were in Australia, and that became a painting of mine. I changed a few things because I just felt it would look better the way I saw it

in my mind."

The hue of the water changed and the dock disappeared, and Novosad came up with a work that he found to be more visually pleasing than the original photo. That's not uncommon in his overall process, and it holds true to that basic principle — grow and develop.

Novosad first discovered his interest in art at a young age, starting out by drawing various pictures of animals. Once he reached high school in Kitchener, he didn't find a good art program but did wind up in draft-