

Before the Queen's Garden Party - Unveiling of Designs for Queen's Image in Senate Foyer

Prior to her walkabout at the Queen's Garden Party at Rideau Hall on June 30, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth unveiled two pieces of artwork to commemorate her reign. In recognition of both her Diamond Jubilee to be celebrated in 2012 and the 60th Anniversary of her great great grandmother, Queen Victoria in 1897, the design for an ten foot stained glass window for the Senate foyer was revealed in the presence of the artists, Mrs. Mary Jane Zissoff, Ms. Angela Zissoff, and Mr. Christopher Goodman. The design will be on display at the Senate until the actual window is installed in 2012.



Following her brief personal meeting with the artists, The Hon. Noël A. Kinsella, [Speaker of the Senate](#) escorted Her Majesty to a draped table in the centre of the room. There she unveiled a 15"x10" plaster maquette of her image which will be carved by the Dominion Sculptor, Mr. Philip White from Tyndall limestone from a quarry outside Winnipeg. The bust will join the images of Canada's monarchs, Victoria, Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII and George VI in the Senate foyer.

The [CBC Video](#) with Evan Solomon on June 30 will help readers recapture both events.

Later at the Garden Party, I was most fortunate to meet Angela Zissoff. In a subsequent email, she shared her account printed in her hometown newspaper, part of which is repeated here.

The origin of this project was initiated by Mary Jane Zissoff from Parry Sound. When she heard about Queen Elizabeth II's pending Diamond Jubilee, it seemed appropriate to honor Her Majesty with a stained glass window. In Dec 2008, Mary Jane wrote to The Honourable Noel A. Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate when the Diamond Jubilee was mentioned publicly. A few months later in January 2009 Mary Jane contacted the Honorable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage. Interest was shown to interpret a design, at that time. By November 2009, the members of the Senate that were responsible for this project met with the artists. Design of the window began March 2010 and was approved by May 2010.

Christopher started his career in stained glass at the age of 14 when he worked on, at the time, the largest stained glass window in Canada; St. Patrick's Cathedral, Thunder Bay, ON. He also worked on the House of Commons Provincial Windows from 1972-75. Christopher apprenticed with Russell C. Goodman, his father, who was later awarded The Order of Canada, The Governor General's Award, and the Queen's Jubilee for all his work in stained glass.



Angela Zissoff and her mother, Mary Jane Zissoff, both donned hats for the Queen's Garden Party, Rideau Hall, June 30, 2010.

This family guild started approximately in 1956. Angela met Christopher in 1985 through both of their parent's friendship and were later married in 1988. Angela started an apprenticeship with the Goodman family and has up to this day enjoyed the rewarding life this medium has to offer. In 1990, Chris and Angela brought the studio to Parry Sound where both of their parents were retiring and where Angela spent her summer vacations in her youth. They brought up three boys and continued to work out of their home on Skerryvore Circle. [The Goodman Zissoff Stained Glass Studio](#) operated for seven years in Parry Sound, ON from 1990-97 and has had several windows in town including the altar window in St. Peter's RC Church.

Before moving to Kelowna, BC, Chris and Angela's work brought them to the Ottawa valley where they spent 6 years in Prescott, ON. By 2004, they were headed West. The Goodman Zissoff family have never regretted their move to Kelowna. The scenery is inspiring, the weather is comfortable and the people very friendly. You may view their works at St. Charles Garnier RC Church in Kelowna, St. Anne's RC Church in Osoyoos, and All Saints Anglican Church in Vernon. (Angela Zissoff)

Other than my interest in matters relating to the Arts, there is a Loyalist connection. In our conversation, I discovered that having attained her black belt at the [Loyalist Taekwon-do School](#) in Prescott, Ms. Zissoff received permission to use the name for the training academy in Kelowna where she continues to instruct. As a glass artist, Angela also operates [GZ Pendants Pendants](#), an online store for one of a kind fused glass jewelry and fused glass window panels from the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia.

Resource: The two pictures of the Queen unveiling the artworks were found on [Government of Canada Photo Gallery](#)