

ILLUSTRATOR'S NOTES

- When I create an illustration, I try to work as much as possible with what I know or I have seen.
- I take photos to use as reference material for a painting I may have in mind.
- For some subjects, I can paint without reference (especially if I have done it frequently) e.g. the yard with its trees, snow, doghouse, etc.
- For animas that I don't see often or have never seen, I need to study books and pictures of the animals and read up on their mannerisms.
- I will sketch out a rough draft, especially if I am thinking of something specific. Once I get a feel for the animal, I can place them into the landscape I had in mind.
- For the backgrounds of my paintings, I usually use brushes and watercolour paints. Sometimes I use pen and ink to have a subject stand out more clearly from the background.
- When working with Wilson, I had lots to work from since she was around quite a bit and I could study her, sketch her, and take pictures of her for reference later. (Wilson is a real dog, but she's really a female dog.)
- I often saw deer and fox in my yard in East Selkirk, Manitoba, and in my neighbours' yards, so I had a feel for how they fit into the landscape. "Little Hare" and some of the animals that are observed less frequently were more difficult.
- Wilson was usually sketched in first with pencil or pen, but sometimes I would use watercolour pencils for a bit more control. Watercolour pencils allow me to draw in the colour I want and then soften the colour with a brush and water.