

ARTS/HEALTH

# Making the Janeway look a little nicer

*Art for Healing Foundation  
makes contribution to children's hospital*

By JAMES MCLEOD  
THE TELEGRAM

Two arts heavyweights were in a corridor in the Janeway Wednesday to make the hospital a better place.

Canadian prima ballerina Veronica Tenant, who wrote a children's book about ballet "On Stage Please," and artist Rita Briansky, the book's illustrator, were part of the unveiling of 15 engravings from the book — art which now lines a second floor hallway at the Janeway Children's Hospital.

The art is courtesy of the Montreal-based Art for Healing Foundation, working with the Janeway Children's Hospital Foundation.

"People in a nicer environment actually heal better. They require less medication and their stay in a hospital is actually shortened," said Art for Healing co-founder Gary Blair.

He said while hospitals are very aware of the benefits of art and an aesthetically pleasing environment, limits on money and time often leave facili-

ties ugly and institutional.

The same problem faces the Janeway Foundation.

"Everything that the Janeway Foundation does is towards program needs and medical equipment," said foundation executive director Lynn Sparkes. "The demand for that is so high that we really don't have excess funds for initiatives such as this."

Tenant said when she was performing with the National Ballet of Canada, she brought her daughter with her on a visit to Newfoundland.

On the flight, the pressure change caused problems for the little girl's ears.

"Off we bundled, into the taxi to the Janeway,

and they took such wonderful care of her," Tenant said.

"They gave her drops, and the rest of our stay was wonderful."

Newfoundland and Labrador is the third province to benefit from Art for Healing, which has previously put art into more than 30 hospitals in Quebec and Ontario.

jmcleod@thetelegram.com



Prima ballerina Veronica Tenant and artist Rita Briansky stand in front of Briansky's engravings at an unveiling in the Janeway Wednesday afternoon. — Photo by James McLeod/The Telegram