

Monteith Hosts Art Show June 3 Of Inmates' Work

Prison Arts Foundation, an organization that accepts original works of art from inmates in jails and prisons across Canada, will be displaying over 200 works of art at the Monteith Correctional Centre Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The works are submitted to several panels of judges who are experienced or professionals in their own right or who have worked in different fields of the arts for many years. These panels judge the works in different categories such as paintings, poetry, arts and crafts and creative writing.

The works which are the best in the judges' opinion are added to the collection which is taken to all the major cities across Canada for public showings.

This year in conjunction with

Canada being the host for the Olympic Games, the exhibit will be shown during the games.

Monteith recreational director Nelson Smith said that although we have not won any awards this year "we have submitted two oil paintings and several poems, done by the inmates for consideration in next year's competitions."

The first showing of these works was in 1969 and since then the number and quality of the exhibits has grown until this year there are 200.

Ten other nations also provide exhibits. They are Greece, Germany, New Zealand, Australia, Swaziland, Chile, Japan, Barbadoes, Thailand and the United States.

The project has been described by some as one that is long overdue, because

civilized society has more talent locked up behind bars than it cares to admit. This showing gives the public a good idea on the artistic abilities that inmates have.

FINANCIAL HELP

Along with helping the inmates to pass their time, the competition provides other benefits. Winners receive bursaries which helps them to continue their art work once they finish their sentences.

Mr. Nelson said that everyone is invited to attend.

"It would be a nice way to spend the day with the family," he said.

He added that for those who do attend the show and become interested enough in a certain work to purchase it, there will be bid sheets available for them to fill out.

Minister visits M.C.C.

A visitor to Monteith Correctional Centre on Sunday, August 29, was the Hon. John Smith, Minister of Correctional Services. Accompanied by Mr. D. Griggs, Superintendent of the Correctional Centre, Mr. Smith made a tour of the institution.

On Sunday evening the Hon. Mr. Smith and his wife Judy, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Griggs, were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Boyd of Highway 11 for a social evening. In 1967 Mr. Smith was the president of the Ontario Horticultural Society and presided over its annual meeting which was held that year in Timmins.

Mr. Smith renewed acquaintances with local horticulturists he met at that time.

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Visiting in Monteith after an absence of about 23 years was Mrs. D. White, wife of the late D. White who was at one time superintendent at the Monteith Correctional Centre. Friends who knew the Whites gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill James to renew old acquaintances. Accompanying Mrs. White were former Monteith residents Mr. and Mrs. Howard Goring, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Tinney.