

Quinte area art classics return home

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By Jack Evans

SPECIAL TO THE INTELLIGENCER

QUINTE WEST — A beautiful collection of paintings returned to their original Quinte home last weekend.

Some of them will remain here.

The occasion was a show and sale of a large collection of works by the late Ormah Bernice Taylor (nee Davis) from the private collection of her daughter, Barbara Walford-Davis, now of Haliburton. The show was held upstairs in the historic Trenton Town Hall - 1861.

Walford-Davis herself has taken to following in her mother's footsteps and has become a dedicated painter. The collection of more than 60 works, most of them from the immediate Trenton-Brighton Bay area, represents most of the works of her mother, she said, who although took lessons, was mostly self taught.

The paintings span all seasons and are mostly landscapes. She earned a reputation as a talented painter during her lifetime.

In a backgrounder provided by her daughter, Mrs. Taylor was born in Toronto in 1916 and moved to Carrying Place on the banks of the Murray Canal at a young age. She was the youngest of seven children. She and her family were active in St. John's Anglican Church at Carrying Place, where she sang in the choir and attended Sunday School.

She worked for Keith Hadley, optometrist, for some years, during which time she met and married Jack Taylor, a police officer, who later became Trenton's police chief. After her husband's retirement, they lived between Barcovan and Cedardale on the shores of Lake Ontario.

Taylor's paintings also focused often on the Brighton countryside and their lakeside home area. She and her good friend, Marvel Garrett, spent much time together painting. They also attended art classes and put on several joint shows.

They both took lessons from Pava Arola and the late Rev. Squires of Consecon.

Ormah Bernice Taylor died Oct. 11, 2001, in a nursing home at Warkworth at age 85, leaving behind an era of paintings depicting the Quinte countryside, including one of the home of Angus Mowat, father of author Farley Mowat.

The two-day show drew much interest and was sponsored by Jeanette Campbell Studio and Gallery.