

Celebration of Loughborough a successful culmination of painting project

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"Color It Loughborough" was the theme of an exhibition of paintings of township scenes by the noted Kingston artist, Shirley Gibson-Langille. This celebration of the art, history and architecture of Loughborough was a successful culmination of a six-month painting project by this energetic artist with a special affinity for rural scenes.

It not only provided area residents with an excellent view of the rich architectural heritage, but initiated an arts scholarship for students in Sydenham High School. There were almost 100 pictures of pastoral splendor on display.

Proceeds from events and a contribution from the sale of paintings raised more than \$1,000 for this new scholarship.

A highlight of the opening ceremonies was the arrival on horseback of the ghost of Lord Sydenham, alias Jeff Peters. With his period costume and stately manners, Mr. Peters proved to be an authentic portrayal of a vice-regal personage.

Margaret Angus, a well-known Kingston historian, traced Baron Sydenham's life (Charles Poulet Thompson) during his brief tenure as Queen Victoria's representative in Canada. Mrs. Angus noted there was considerable irony in Lord Sydenham's tragic fate. As a resident of Kingston, he attended Sunday morning service in St. George's Cathedral, where he found the rector's sermon "boring" and vowed he would never go there again. But later that week he fell off his horse and died from his injuries.

The funeral was in St. George's Cathedral, with the same minister officiating. His remains lie buried under the cathedral's centre aisle.

Betty Roberts, a local historian, gave a detailed history of Sydenham, beginning from when it was known as Sloat's Landing. She recalled it was Squire William Holditch who proposed the name Sydenham for the growing village. However, the name Sloat still remains today, with current voting divisions listed as being separated by a line through Sloat's Lake.

Mrs. Roberts conducted a tour of the village, with William Holditch's stately stone structure viewed along with many other historic buildings. It is today the home of Major Eric and Carol Forde.

The hall housed many historical displays. Among them were a maple syrup and sugar display from the Perth Road sugar bush, now being operated by the third generation of the Votary family. The three generations of Votarys involved have been Harry, his son, William and William's son Richard.

The Perth Road crafters displayed their handiwork while Jean Azulay showed her extensive news clippings from over the years.

Phyllis Turrel displayed a portion of the 1,045 distinctive dolls from her collection. Florence Hall showed her miniature buildings. Carolyn Brown and Winnifred Sawford (the Happy Hookers!) demonstrated rug making. Diana Drysch was busy spinning wool on an old-fashioned spinning wheel.

The musical entertainment was highlighted by the presence of piper Stanley Bendle, a member of Kingston's Rob Roy Pipe Band. Mr. Bendle, with his lifting music, led the procession on the historical march. Kingston Old Time Fiddlers played toe-tapping music with step dancing by Allan Lawlor. Ken Sigsworth, Bill McDonald and Glenn Foster played and sang country music.

Other musical groups were Loughborough School primary and

junior choirs, Kingston Ceili Band, The Bent Fenders, Tom Ward Show, Gazebo String Band, Mid-Life Crisis Quartet, Easy Street and Studio Pas de Chat.