

Survey finds economy is number one

Response to a questionnaire sent out by Halton M.P. Otto Jelinek showed 57.5 per cent of the people surveyed believe unemployment is the number one federal priority.

Jelinek said he was extremely pleased with the response to the questionnaire as 12 per cent of 4,225 people responded. He felt it showed tremendous interest in federal issues currently under consideration in the House of Commons.

Over half the responses also indicated that people believe the government should provide less assistance to industry and 85 per cent believe there should be income supplements for senior citizens with the lowest incomes.

While some people have proposed including homemakers in the Canada Pension Plan and 59 per cent of the people answering the questionnaire were in favor of such a move, 77.6 per cent said contributions to the plan should be paid out of the family income.

The questionnaire pointed out that the federal government transfers money to the provinces to support their health programs and, asked if provinces which encourage or permit user fees by hospitals or extra billing by doctors should be treated as generously as those which discourage such practices, an overwhelming 65 per cent of the people said no.

On the question of defence spending the questionnaire indicated Canada contributes less than most countries for defence spending. Asked if Canada should spend an extra \$2.3 billion on defence, the response of 62.9 per cent of the people was no.

On the question of adding special security force the survey found 68.6 per cent of the people were in favor of an organization to combat subversive activities in Canada and 80.1 per cent of the people said they believed the job could be handled by the RCMP, rather than a civilian service.

A question that has sparked a great deal of controversy in Canada, Cruise Missile testing on Canadian Soil showed a surprising 72.7 per cent in favor of testing.

Also on a note of national security, 93.1 per cent of the respondents believe Canada should remain as part of NATO despite the fact this country plays only a small role in the organization. 72 per cent said Canada should increase her contributions to NATO in the form of conventional weaponry and more armed forces. Also, 81.9 per cent of the people believe the Canadian Forces should participate in Nato peacekeeping forces around the world.

According to the questionnaire the greatest priority facing the government today is the economy, followed by law and order. Ranking third is the environment and fourth is social service programs.



At the official opening of the Robert Bateman Exhibition at the cultural centre, Friday, Professor John Hall, congratulates Bateman while John Sommer, curator for the exhibition looks on. Professor Hall a former art instructor of Bateman, officially opened the show.



After the opening of the exhibition, Robert Bateman was surrounded with people while he discussed the techniques used in his early painting.



Alex Docker of Bramalea, was thrilled to have Robert Bateman look over his art work at the opening of the exhibition, Friday night.

Bateman's warmth charms admirers

by Paul Dorsey
It was an elegant opening for an art show Friday evening at the gallery of the Cultural Centre when an eager crowd turned out for the Robert Bateman exhibition, on display until Aug. 3.

Bateman charmed the audience with his simplicity as he took viewers on a tour of his work, explaining where each was painted and showing the continuity of his work over the years.

He praised curator John Sommer for the intelligence and scholarship he brought to the show and the perception he had shown in selecting the paintings.

Refreshments of strawberry tarts and chocolate-dipped strawberries added the right touch of charm to the evening, which ended only after Bateman had patiently and smilingly autographed copies of his book for a long line-up of admirers.

Earning credit as patrons of the exhibition were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Helson, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Knoespel of ArtCast, Keith and Doug Urch of Visions Gallery and Framing, Hank Visser on behalf of Smith and Stone,

Mr. and Mrs. John McDonald and Mr. and Mrs. Ross Barnwell on behalf of Benson and Hedges, Mr. and Mrs. Sommer of Gallery House Sol and Curwood Packaging. The opening was organized by the recently-formed Friends of the Library.

Among the paintings Bateman described for opening night participants:

—Elm Street, Back Alley, the earliest work in the show, dating from 1949, when Bateman was just 19 years old. Advised by his teacher Gordon Payne to give his subdued painting of the Toronto Arts and Letters Club backyard a "visual sensation," Bateman painted its central door a bright green, sharply off-setting the otherwise sombre coloring.

—Driftwood, Victoria, B.C. 1950, is an entirely different approach again, an explosion of textural experiment that traces its components to a single, shared origin. One of curator Sommer's personal favorites in the show, the painting packs an energetic punch that belies its small size.

—Fireweed, 1960, depicts the essential heat of summer in a shimmering, almost

abstract treatment of the weed's branches and leaves. A dazzling work drawing on varying influences.

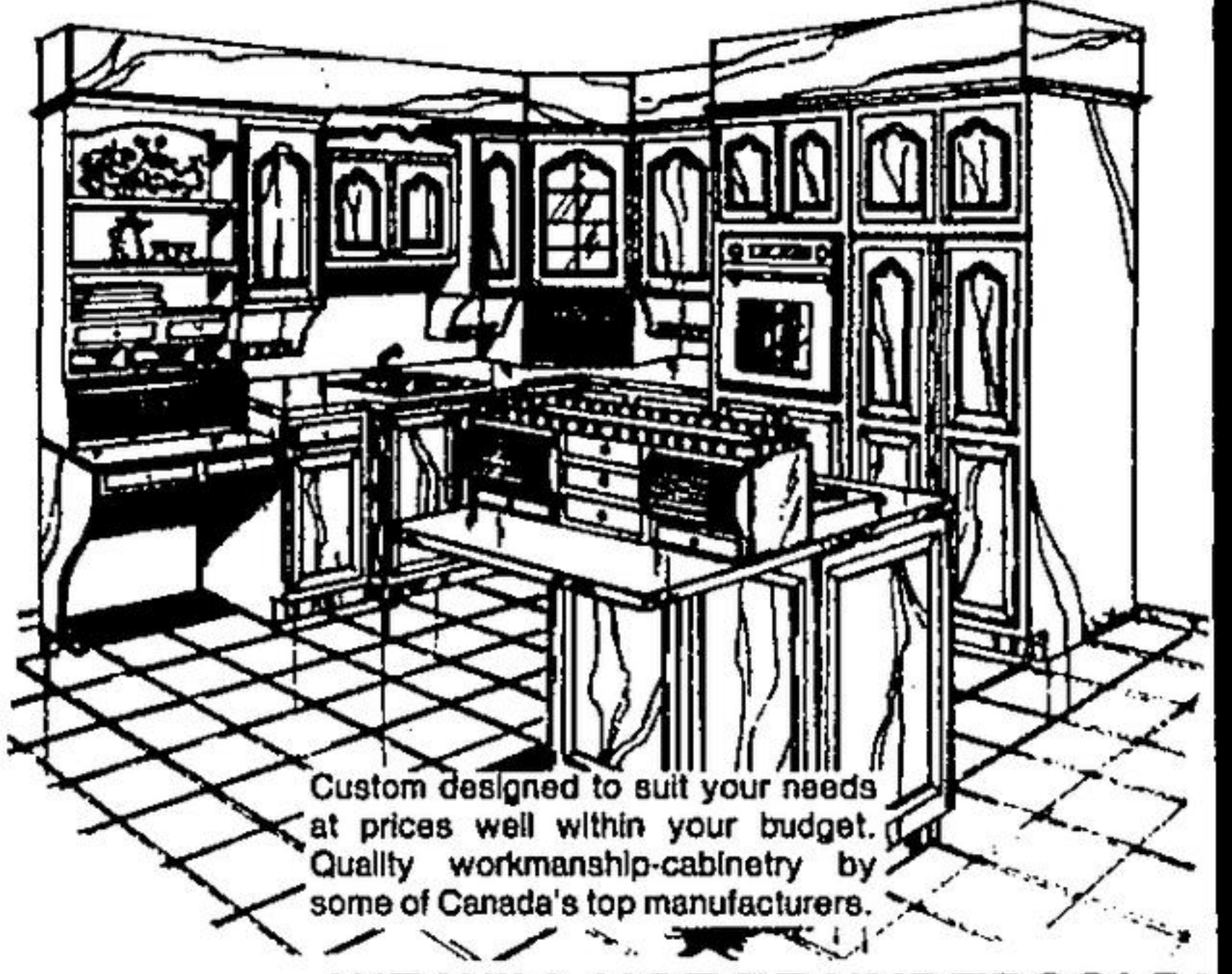
—Summer Pond, 1962, is a minor masterpiece in Sommer's view, the very best in the exhibition, with its looping tree branch stretched across a Prussian blue and aquamarine pond that itself reaches back to infinity. A tribute to the vitality with which Bateman has apparently always been able to imbue his work.

—Rattlesnake Point, 1962, painted virtually from Bateman's rural Burlington doorstep in colors that suggest he was ready and waiting for the kind of stylistic change that the following year's groundbreaking exhibition by Andrew Wyeth would finally bring about. Enormously impressed by the American painter's so-called magic realism, Bateman quickly adopted the style by which he is so widely known today.

In all, 35 paintings from 1949 to 1963 are on view, along with one 1983 painting, some recent watercolors, a wide range of sketches, plus sculptures, studies and some bird specimens collected and preserved by the artist.



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