

In praise of Robert Bateman

Letters to the Editor

To the editor of The Herald:

Robert Bateman, the Canadian painter, gave a lecture titled "Ideas in Art" at the John Elliott Theatre on Thursday, May 19. The event was sponsored by the Georgetown Arts and Crafts for the benefit of the Bruce Trail Association.

The place was sold out to the last seat, which is newsworthy by itself. Georgetown is, after all, still the kind of town where only farces and certain sports events have a chance to guarantee a full house.

The stage, decorated by the ladies of the Georgetown Arts and Crafts with two huge vases filled with spring branches, looked nice and elegant.

Mr. Bateman, who must be one of the most engaging personalities in a profession not generally known to possess many members with a sense of humor, gave a lecture, consisting of talk and illustrating slides, that had the audience laughing and responding most of the way with relish. I had the feeling that quite a few of them were surprised to find "Art" to be such a fascinating and entertaining subject.

Mr. Bateman did not speak as an art historian but instead gave us an introduction into his own artistic universe. He told us about himself, as a

twelve-year-old with an intense interest in art and nature, and a desire to record what was in front of his eyes. From the beginning he was two people: a scientist, who looked for the particular, and an artist, who wanted to express the universal. As the latter he came

under the influence of great masters like Cezanne and Picasso; of his Canadian teachers Carl Schaefer and John Hall; and of the heroic American painters of the fifties, namely Mark Rothko and Clifford Still. For about 15 years he painted nature through their eyes, pro-

ducing abstract and semi-abstract works, besides the quick sketches of animals and plants with which he continued to fill his notebooks.

Seeing some of these early paintings projected onto the screen of the John Elliott Theatre I found them to be imbued

with the same surrender to nature's otherness than his late, more famous works.

But the early paintings differ in an important way: Bateman the scientist is not in them. At that time he was still searching for a way to combine his two personalities. He needed a "sign", a "conversion", to be able to do that.

The conversion came in 1963 when he visited an exhibition by the great American magic realist painter Andrew Wyeth at the Albright-Knox Gallery in Buffalo. He saw that these seemingly non-abstract realistic paintings were as abstract, that is as spatially structured, as any of the works by the great abstract painters he admired. In his own words: "My art really emerged when I realized that it was acceptable to paint distinct forms -- to move from the abstract to realism and not lose the painterly art, the art with a capital A."

When Mr. Bateman had finished his lecture the large audience applauded long and enthusiastically. He invited questions, and there were many. It was a great evening and I fervently hope that we will be able to bring him back to Georgetown for an encore.

Sincerely,
John Sommer.



BACK SEAT DRIVING

About 16 nursery school age children took a stroll through the back seat of a Halton regional police vehicle last Wednesday afternoon, following a grand tour of the Georgetown station. The Montessori

Nursery School students were put behind bars and given a chance to use the police radio by Const. Brian Farrell.

(Herald photo)



'BUSHED'

Glen Williams residents were up early Saturday morning meeting demands from gardeners eager to renew some of the flora around their homes. It was the Glen Town Hall Committee's annual shrub sale,

proceeds from which go to the town hall and the village's Canada Day celebrations. Among those who came out were (left to right) Terra Cotta's Jo Young, Kim Howe and two-year-old Joshua Young.

SAT., MAY 28

Come to the:

GERRIE ELECTRIC

Wholesale Ltd.

Grand Opening

We're very proud of our new lighting showroom and we want you to see the many decorative lighting fixtures on display.

HELP US CELEBRATE!

Just fill in the ballot below, bring it to the Showroom Opening on Saturday, May 28 and:

YOU COULD WIN!

1st Prize: \$200. Gift Voucher
2nd Prize: \$100. GIFT VOUCHER
3rd Prize: LOBSTER DINNER
(Donated by Kiwanis Club)
4th Prize: BLUE JAY TICKETS (1 pr)
5th Prize: BLUE JAY TICKETS (1 pr)

YOU WILL SAVE

40% OFF

On all lighting fixtures & orders placed May 28th

* FREE GIFTS (with each lighting purchase)

* FREE COFFEE, DONUTS AND SOFT DRINKS

GERRIE ELECTRIC
Wholesale Ltd.

317 Armstrong Ave.
Georgetown 877-2264

FILL IN BALLOT

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE.....

May 28, Bring To:
GERRIE ELECTRIC
Wholesale Limited
317 Armstrong Ave. 877-2264

A FULL RANGE OF ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES ALSO AVAILABLE

FILL IN BALLOT

BEAVER LUMBER

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL

White Tubsurround

5 Piece Tub Kit
Install it yourself

NOW

\$59.95

BUILDING A HOUSE
OR PLANNING A
MAJOR RENOVATION

ASK US ABOUT "VOLUME PRICING" ON LUMBER AND BUILDING SUPPLIES

SIZE	PRESSURE TREATED	CEDAR	SPRUCE
1"x6'	32¢	39¢	21¢
2"x4'	38¢	45¢	26¢
2"x6'	60¢	72¢	42¢
2"x8'	81¢	95¢	62¢
4"x4'	81¢	97¢	NOT AVAILABLE

4'x8' GIS FIR PLYWOOD			
4'x8'x6mm	4'x8'x11mm	4'x8'x17mm	
15.75	19.95	27.95	

4'x8' STANDARD SPRUCE			
4'x8'x9.5mm	4'x8'x12.5mm	4'x8'x15.5mm	4'x8'x18.5mm
10.45	15.00	18.50	21.00

4'x8' GYPROC	INSULATION FIBREGLASS PINK	ASPENITE
3/8"	R12 - 90 Sq. Ft.	1/4"
4.99	17.95	5.55
1/2"	R20 - 50 Sq. Ft.	7/16"
5.09	16.95	8.85

SPRUCE LUMBER

1"x2"x8' ...	48¢	1"x3"x8' ...	69¢
2"x2"x8' ...	88¢	2"x4"x8' ECONOMY	1.35
2"x4"x8' STUD. ...	1.99	SHINGLES	8.95

BEAVER LUMBER

KEN SMITH - FRANCHISE DEALER
316 Guelph St. 877-2234

STORE HOURS

Mon., Tues., Wed. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Thurs., Fri. 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.