

# Leacock festival: a family affair

The 1991 Leacock Heritage Festival, featuring over 30 events, brings "Good Old-Fashioned Family Fun" to Orillia for 13 days from July 24th to August 5th.

The third annual Festival celebrates Canada's foremost humorist, Stephen Leacock, and the Orillia he knew at the turn of the century. Sponsored by 18 community groups and involving over 250 volunteers, the Festival program is dynamic and diverse, with special emphasis on fun. Highlights include the new Leacock Evening of Humorous Song event; the Old-Fashioned Children's Festival and Picnic in the Park; Leacock Medal for Humour Readings, featuring award-winning Canadian authors; and Old-Fashioned Street Dance at Orillia's waterfront boardwalk, and the Leacock Garden Party on the lawns of the

Stephen Leacock Museum.

Throughout the Festival will be costume competitions, tours, boat cruises, theatre, music concerts, art and heritage displays, street sales, and much more. A \$2.00 Festival All-Event Pin will provide admission to most Festival events. The pin, as well as the Festival brochure and souvenir T-shirts reflect the official Festival poster, a waterfront painting by local artist, Will McGarvey. Souvenirs can be purchased at the Leacock Heritage Festival Information Centre at 16 Mississauga Street East in Downtown Orillia.

Taking part in many of the events will be the Festival's Honorary Chairman, Howard White, winner of the 1991 Leacock Award for Humour for his book, *Writing in the Rain*. The Leacock Heritage Festival has two literary competitions: the

Leacock Limerick Awards, an international competition for unpublished limericks, and the Humorous Short Story Competition. Winners will be announced at the Festival's Mariposa Whirlwind Wind-Up Dance on August 5th.

Sponsors of the 1991 Leacock Heritage Festival include: Downtown Orillia, Royal Bank, Pepsi, Mark Rich Homes Limited, Canada Post, The Villages of Leacock Point, Huronia Trust, Maxwell House Filter Packets, the Packet and Times, CFOR 1570, Huronia Sunday, Orillia Sun, CKCO-TV, CHAY 93.1 FM, and Orillia Today. The Festival is supported by Communications Canada, the Canada Council, Employment and Immigration Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications.

# Youth orchestra entering 31st year

National Youth Orchestra of Canada's 31st season to include performances at: Guelph, War Memorial Hall, July 26 and Aug. 4; London, Centennial Hall, July 27; Shaw Festival, July 29; Kitchener, Centre in the Square, July 30; Toronto, Roy Thomson Hall, Aug. 6; Hamilton, Hamilton Place, Aug. 7.

All performances begin at 8:00 p.m.

The 1991 session of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada marks the organization's 31st season. This year the orchestra is comprised of 83 students from all across Canada. These fine young musicians won their NYO positions through nation-wide auditions in 30 centres. The six-week session is being held in Guelph, Ontario for the first time this

summer. The University of Guelph combines excellent facilities, community support for the Arts, and easy access to several other major performance locations.

The members of the NYO faculty bring to the session many years of experience, gained in the foremost orchestras of Europe and North America. Daily schedules include private lessons, sectionals, theory and repertoire analysis, full orchestra rehearsals, as well as opportunities for chamber music and individual practice. All students are on full scholarship, supported by grants from all three levels of government, sponsorships, and donations from private individuals, foundations, and corporations.

Concerts are presented in major Canadian cities each year. When schedules and finances allow, extended tours are made to more distant cities. In addition to Canadian performances the orchestra has played at the Edinburgh Festival and toured in the United States, England, France and Germany.

The orchestra is pleased to welcome a new conductor this year. Daniel Lipton has established a fine reputation through his current posts as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor with Opera Hamilton, and Artistic Director of the San Antonio Festival in Texas.

For further information please contact: Sue Willson, NYO Office, University of Guelph. (519)824-4120 ext. 78591.

# Gallery hosts Group of Seven exhibition

North by West: the Arctic and Rocky Mountain Paintings of Lawren Harris 1924-1931 is the major summer exhibition currently on display at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. Close to 80 paintings have been brought together from private and public collections. Sixty-two oils and drawings by Harris, including such well-knowns as *Mount Lefroy* and *Lake and Mountains*, are accompanied by works of his contemporaries and fellow members of the Group of Seven - J.E.H. MacDonald, A.Y. Jackson, Arthur Lismer and Frederick Varley. The exhibition runs until September 15, 1991.

The changing nature of Harris'

Rocky Mountain landscapes, from representational to abstract, mirror his spiritual and artistic growth. The seven-year period examined in *North by West* represents the culmination of Harris' attempts to voice his spiritual concerns and beliefs in his art. "Harris is the premier painter of the Canadian Rockies in the twentieth century," states Christopher Jackson, curator of *North by West*. "He created peoples' ideas of what the Rockies looked like. Our notion of the Arctic as our frontier comes from his paintings."

As a prominent member of the Group of Seven, Lawren Harris is one of Canada's most important and outstanding artists. Born in

Brantford, Ontario, he was heir to the Massey-Harris manufacturing fortune.

*North by West* was organized by Christopher Jackson of the Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta and circulated by the Glenbow with financial assistance from the Calgary Region Arts Foundation and the Museum Assistance Program of the Department of Communications (Canada). The exhibition is insured through the insurance component of the Museum Assistance Program. Transportation for the national tour has been generously provided through the corporate sponsorship of North American Van Lines.

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