

# Chicago is brash and showy, but a treat to visit

My wife's sister-in-law is a passionate student of architecture. Recently she came to Canada with her husband for a visit; but her real reason for crossing the Atlantic was her desire to see Chicago, the city that has been the major center for American architecture since the late 19th century.

We decided to join her in her quest, and one day not quite two weeks ago, we all boarded a plane at Toronto's smashing new "Trillium" airport for a short one-hour-hop to Chicago.

Unlike Toronto's airport, Chicago's O'Hare International, the busiest airport in the world, is linked to its city by a rapid transit system that gets you downtown in 39 minutes. Looking out of our hotel room windows on Michigan Avenue towards the lake, we realized at once that Chicago has avoided another mistake Toronto seems to repeat over and over again. The many-a-mile-long Chicago lakefront is a vast wide park, whereas Toronto was once cut off from Lake Ontario by a huge railroad yard, and is now cut off from the lake by the Gardiner Expressway, and by a whole lot of speculative and undistinguished condominium towers.

Walking out to the water's edge and looking from there over the park's treetops towards the city,

the visitor takes in a skyline of dynamic splendor. Chicago's towers are excessively individualistic. They stand there like overpowering personalities at a crowded party. They show no regard for their neighbors and jostle for attention and with each others space. This ruthless behavior leaves the viewer speechless but invigorated. Some of the most flamboyant designers left their mark on these towers, names like Henry Richardson, Louis Sullivan, Daniel Burnham, Frank Lloyd Wright, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy (he relocated the "New Bauhaus" in Chicago in the 30's after the famous art school was forced to close in Hitler's Germany), Walter Gropius, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Eero Saarinen, and Helmut Jahn come to mind.

Chicago is nowhere pretty. It is a brash and showy place, and the contrasts one encounters are enormous. Large tracks of the city are in a near ruinous state, the back alleys are filled with trash, the elevated railway turns whole streets into dark dungeons, but the glamor is equally extreme. The public art, ornamenting the parks and squares of the city is of the grandest. Works by Mestrovic, Picasso, Calder, Chagall and many others are everywhere. In the city's fashionable parts, the merchan-



Ideas and The Arts by John Sommer

dise is eye-watering and the stores themselves of such self-conscious luxury that only the very rich will dare to enter them. Many a skyscraper has a gilded facade or a gleaming spire reflecting the sun's light, and opulent restaurants, their windows uncovered by curtains, show the fortunate eating for hours, while the poor watch them with envy.

Last but not least Chicago can boast of one of the greatest art museums on the North American continent.

The Art Institute of Chicago is more than 100-years-old, which is not a long time if compared to some of the European museums. The scope of the Art Institute, however, covers human history. The variety and quality of the artifacts, all of them donations from wealthy American collectors, is extraordinary. The art

works are given detailed descriptions, well-written, and with a generous amount of fascinating information. Every room in the museum is arranged for maximum impact, and works of particular importance, from an art historical point of view, are given a treatment that makes this importance immediately obvious.

This museum alone makes a trip to Chicago a treat.

Carl Brenders, the great Belgian wildlife artist will be at a reception and exhibition in his honor at the Art Effect Gallery, 348 Guelph Street in Georgetown, tonight, October 16, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Don't miss the opportunity to meet this remarkable and entertaining artist. You will cherish the memory.

Two invitations to art exhibitions came my way that might be of interest to my readers too. The first is from the Forge Studio

Gallery in Terra Cotta. "Autumn Celebration" has started on September 29, and continues to November 10, 1991. As usual, the Forge has assembled first class artists and artisans for this traditional fall show. This year you will find blown glass by Stephen Kitras, folk art by Frances Tennant, raku masks by Agnes Olive, and paintings by Tracey Bowen.

The second invitation is from Art Effects Gallery, at 348 Guelph St. in Georgetown. On Wednesday, October 16, from 7 p.m. on, this gallery is having a special reception for the Belgian painter Carl Brenders. Carl Brenders is one of the few truly superb painter's of wildlife, his technique is dazzling.

At Art Effects Mr. Brenders will exhibit reproductions and some original paintings. Go and have a chat with the man. He speaks well and with enthusiasm about his art if you ask the right questions.

## Annual Arts and Crafts exhibition

The 49th annual Arts and Crafts of Georgetown exhibition and sale is happening Oct. 19 at Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church Hall, Maple Ave. in Georgetown, from 10-4 p.m.

Since 1942, when war wives formed the Arts and Crafts group to make gifts for Christmas presents, the exhibition and sale has been held. This year's promises to be one of the best ever.

Exhibits at the sale will include batik (scarf dying), candle, cards, country Victorian baskets, everlasting flower arrangements, gourmet jams and jellies, hasty notes, jewellery, knitting, leather tooling, oil painting, origami, paper tole, quilting, rug hooking, sewing,

spinning, stained glass, smocking, tole painting, weaving and wooden toys.

"This year, we're decorating the hall with a Victorian theme," said club president, Pat Beer. "All the decorations are made by club members and some will also be on sale."

The group will continue to offer the Pantry Shelf, a table laden with home baked goods, candy and jams which is usually sold out by noon said Mrs. Beer.

Exhibitions of interest will include the Georgetown rug-hookers, a knitter and her spinning wheel, a paper tole artist and samples of gourmet jams and jellies will be given out.

On-lookers made hungry by the gourmet jams and baked goods can buy coffee, donuts and sandwiches which will be supplied by the Catholic Women's League.

The Arts and Crafts club of Georgetown originated with five women and now has approximately 35 members said Mrs. Beer.

"We like to have fewer than 50 members so we can keep it personal and meet at members' houses," she said. "Many of our members are housewives who don't do their crafts professionally."

The sale is a big boost for members, she said. "Since most of our members aren't professionals, they don't have an outlet to display their talents except for this exhibition and sale."

It also helps craft makers recoup some of their expenses and keeps the club financially secure. A small commission from each craft sold goes toward the club along with the \$1 admission cost at the door.

The club money is used for various things said Mrs. Beer.

"Some of the money is used to pay speakers at our meetings and some is put into a scholarship fund to aid members taking lessons to improve their craft skill," she said.

She advises people to arrive at the sale early, as attendance is usually in the 700-800 range.

## Artisans workshop

The Credit Valley Artisans are offering a one-day workshop in the art of calligraphy on Saturday, October 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Susan Nelson, a well-known professional calligrapher and artist from Guelph, will be the instructor. The location of the course is Cedarvale Cottage located in Cedarvale Park.

Students will be introduced to an alphabet style known as Black Letter (or Old English). This style originated during the Gothic

period and is characterized by tall and narrow letters, like a Gothic arch. Black letter is an excellent decorative style for certificates and Christmas cards. This workshop is designed for the beginner and those with some previous calligraphic experience.

For further information contact Frank Anthony, Registrar, at 877-5856 between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Deadline for workshop registration is Friday, October 11, 1991.

### The Paper Factory

2 Mountainview Rd. S. Come & Browse!  
(At Guelph Street) Georgetown, Ont. 873-7403

### FREE DAY PASS

Drop by and receive a free tour of our club and a Complimentary Day Pass for the use of all our facilities!

Limit 1 Pass Per Person  
Must be 18 years of age or older



**WORK THAT BODY**  
512 GUELPH STREET, GEORGETOWN  
877-0771

### EMERALD ISLE AND BEDROOM GALLERY

130 Guelph St. Georgetown  
873-2753



**Decor to Go**  
Decorating Consultant Available

### GEMINI GLASS & MIRROR

- Mirrors & Glass Furniture
- Sliding Mirror Doors
- Custom Mirror Installation
- Glass Replacement

FREE IN-HOME CONSULTATION AND ESTIMATES

9 Carruthers Rd. Georgetown 873-1230

### What's Cooking at STEAK EXPRESS?

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



**KISKO FREEZIES \$3.99**  
The "Safe" Halloween Treat.  
Freeze 'em and Eat 'em.

100 pc. Box

BOXED MEATS FROZEN FOOD


GEORGETOWN at Deffen & Guelph St. 877-0721

OPEN SUNDAY

### GIC RATE

## 9 3/4 %

Rate Subject To Change Without Notice



**MONEY CONCEPTS**  
FINANCIAL PLANNING CENTRE

348 Guelph St. Georgetown  
873-1877

## OSBORNE DECOR

Custom Made Verticals, Drapes And Bedspreads  
FREE SHOP-AT-HOME SERVICE!

**NORVAL 877-6086**



### First Choice Hair Cutters

TOTAL FAMILY HAIR CARE

**PERMS**

Short Hair	\$45.00	STORE HOURS:
Medium Hair	\$50.00	Mon.-Fri. 9-9
Long Hair	\$55 & Up	Sat. 8-5

GST INCLUDED


BRING IN THIS COUPON & RECEIVE

# \$10 OFF A PERM

1 Mountainview Rd. N. 873-1339


NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

### "Have you protected the investment you have in your home?"



"Make sure your family will have a deed not a debt. Protect your family's biggest investment with a mortgage protection plan. It's low-cost peace-of-mind knowing your home is creditor-proof.

Let me show you how."



**The Mutual Group**  
Facing Tomorrow Together

Carber Goodlet B.A. (Econ.)  
50 Queen St. West Suite 200, Brampton  
Bus. 451-3460 - Res. 877-5129  
Licensed with Mutual Life of Canada

### The Frame Maker Gallery

232 Guelph Street  
(Royal Bank Plaza) Georgetown 877-6332

# 25 % OFF

All Needlework Stretching For The Month of October

**PLUS SALE PRICES ON FRAMED PRINTS & POSTERS**

**NOW ON DISPLAY**  
James Lumbar's Gretsky Print "A Boy & His Dream"

SALE OF FRAMED PRINTS AND POSTERS  
MEMBER OF PROFESSIONAL PICTURE FRAMERS ASSOCIATION