

## Tribal Council warms up for opening

The new Georgian Bay Tribal Council Offices don't officially open until this afternoon but Council officials have been warming up for the event all week long.

This has been Native Awareness week in North Huronia, and the Council has organized displays at the Civic Centre and, during the sidewalk sale, has offered samples of native

arts and crafts and food and refreshment outside of its headquarters.

The program, says Council executive director Roger Jackson, was set up to "help young people, and the community in general, become more aware of our presence in the Midland area."

They've also been celebrating the second anniversary of the formation of the incorporation of the council (its former headquarters were at Moose Deer Point Reserve.)

Today, the Council held its executive meetings in town, gathering representatives from its five constituencies: Christian Island, Rama, Parry Island, Henvey Inlet and Moose Deer Point.

Tomorrow, the officials will welcome the Honorable John Munro, Minister of Indian Affairs, Mayor Moreland Lynn, and Dr. David Ahenakew of Ottawa, president of the National Assembly of Chiefs, to its new headquarters for the official "ribbon cutting" which, in this case, will be the burning-through of sweet grass.

The ceremony will take place at 3 p.m.

## Tiny consoled by NDP's Foulds

In the wake of last week's disappointment over the passing of Bill 62, Tiny has received some encouragement from James Foulds, NDP Deputy Leader.

"It is my understanding from my colleague Mike Breaugh, MPP, that the move to have the matter of Bill 62 referred briefly to Committee outside so the Municipality of Tiny can make representation to the Committee had been successful.

"Unfortunately, I also understand that Mr. Bennett and the Ministry were too stubborn to listen in a positive way to your representation.

"I am sorry we were not able to help you in order to win the case.

"However, I do want to salute you and your Council for the courage and persistence in the battle with the Ministry."

## Local artist and teacher wins major award in Toronto

by Shirley Whittington

Hugh Niblock, a well-known Midland artist and ESPSS art teacher, has returned from the 21st Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition with a major award and a number of auxiliary honours. He is also \$250 richer. He and his wife-cum-manager Gale are thrilled.

Niblock won first prize, the Eaton Foundation Award, for the best watercolour in the exhibit, held in Nathan Phillips Square in front of the Toronto City Hall. The exhibit featured painting, jewelry, photography, crafts and ceramics, sculpture and graphics from many parts of Canada, the United States, and other parts of the world.

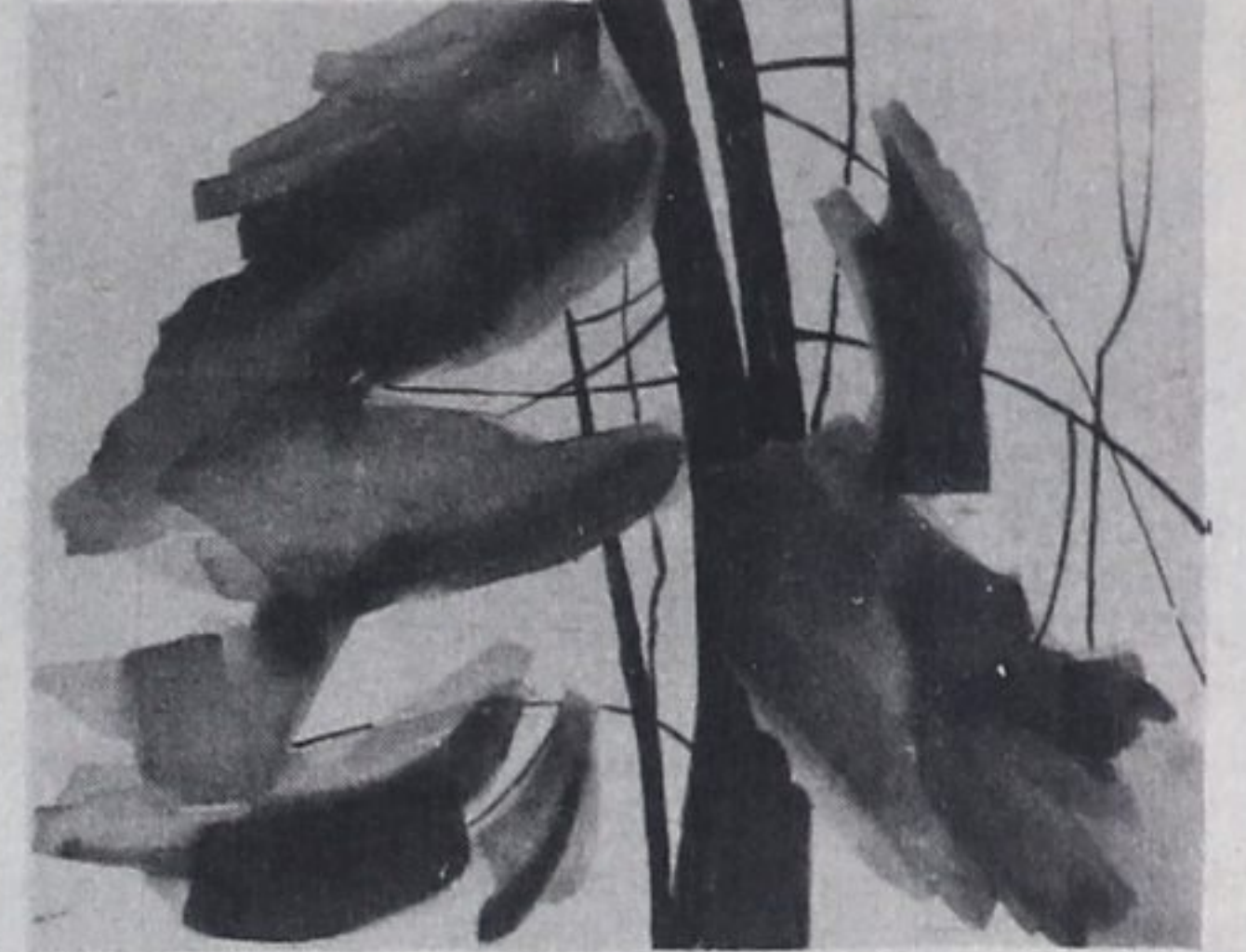
Edith Yeomans, executive director of the Professional Art Dealers Association of Canada and a past curator of the Art Gallery of Hamilton was the adjudicator of the watercolour division. "I looked for the relationship between the subject matter, the media and the artist's statement," said Ms. Yeomans. "Technical competence and the ability (of a work) to stand on its own are also vital components."

Both Niblock entries were landscape inspirations. One was a winter mosaic with blocks of gentle water, colour delineated by tree trunks stroked in oil pastels. The others were in the series of pine studies - stylized watercolours that make simple and dramatic statements.

Further honour came to Niblock when one of his watercolours was selected by the adjudicators as a suitable gift for the Honorable John Aird, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and an enthusiastic art collector. The painting, a winter watercolour with three small skiing figures in the foreground, was the unanimous choice of the five adjudicators.

Says Niblock, "When they asked Mr. Aird if they should deliver the painting to his office or to his home, he just picked it up and put it under his arm. 'I'm taking it with me,' he said, and off he went." Hugh thinks this is an indication that Mr. Aird was pleased with the choice.

Niblock, who with his wife, Gale, has operated Galerie Gale for 13 years, is



devoting the summer to further explorations in watercolour. "It has been three years since I did any work in oils," he says. "I find oil is just too slow. It isn't me any more. On the other hand, watercolour is spontaneous, fresh, fluid and fast. The end product is never laboured. It has vitality and freshness, and it suits my painting personality."

From his university cartooning days in Toronto up to his present growth stage, Hugh Niblock has constantly sought fresh ideas in style and technique. "I'll never paint the same way over and over again," he says. "I'll always keep changing because for me when a particular approach or idea is finished, it's finished. And it's time to try a new approach, a different way of expression."

His principal inspiration lies in the landscapes of Huronia. "I see paintings everywhere," he says. "I'll never run out of ideas."

Now the Huronia artist whose work hangs in many Midland and Penetanguishene homes is conquering new fields in Toronto.

But don't try to buy the painting which won him the prestigious Eaton Foundation Award for best watercolour in the 21st annual Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition.

It sports a bright red "Sold" sticker, as well as the prestigious first prize ribbon.



## Peoples Store cleanup

The Midland firm of Ladouceur and Son had taken 127 truckloads of debris from the gutted

Peoples Store as of last Wednesday. The Midland department store was destroyed by a

late evening fire last winter. Clearing of the last of the debris should be done today, and

construction of a new building is to start immediately.

## RCA explains plant closing

Following is the text of the statement released yesterday announcing the closing of the RCA plant in Midland.

RCA Inc. said today it plans to end operations at its Midland, Ontario, colour picture tube plant by Dec. 31, 1982, but is actively seeking a purchaser.

RCA Chairman and President G. Denton Clark said that, despite government co-operation and major investments by the company in upgrading equipment, no alternative could be found to closing or selling the plant.

"The loss of our European market, which has accounted for more than 40 per cent of this plant's production, a general softening of demand in Canada and the rest of North America, and severe foreign price competition, has forced us to make

this most difficult decision," Mr. Clark said.

Present employment at the Midland plant is slightly more than 600. These employees have been given more than the legally required 16 weeks' notice of closing and will receive severance payments in accordance with various collective bargaining agreements or corporate policy. Employees will be counselled individually or in small groups to ensure that benefits and options are completely understood. In addition, RCA will work closely with the local Canada Manpower Centre and will maintain a personnel office in Midland to assist employees after the plant closes.

"I wish to convey my sincerest appreciation for the efforts put forward by

the plant's employees and management," said Mr. Clark. "To their credit, and despite severe cutbacks which reduced our work force by half in the last year, our employees had been able, to this point, to maintain productivity. However, despite this effort by everyone involved, the demand in the marketplace, the severe price competition, and the general economic situation have dictated the present action."

RCA recently made significant investments in the Midland plant in order to achieve the economies of scale that were necessary to meet the price demands of the marketplace, both within Canada and for export. These investments brought the capacity of the plant, when operating on a three-shift basis, to over 1 million

tubes a year. The plant is now operating at half capacity.

Mr. Clark said that even if its markets had been sustained, the plant would require additional capital investments to keep it competitive.

Current employees can be assured of several more months of work as the company will operate the plant to year-end to meet all commitments to customers. RCA will entertain offers to purchase the facility from other business concerns. The plant is located 90 miles north of Toronto and has been in operation since 1966.

The Midland decision will not affect the RCA colour television assembly plant at Prescott, Ontario, which will continue normal operations.