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## Rambling Around

(Continued from Page 2)

decorative and dynamic and above all to paint in a sincerely Canadian manner, from intimate contact with, and a profound feeling for the Canadian landscape.

THE GROUP OF SEVEN

The Group of Seven gave Canadian landscape painting in particular, and Canadian art in general, an entirely new direction, and their influence was felt directly or indirectly in almost all the works of succeeding decades.

The group, along with the sensitive and ill-fated Tom Thomson, performed two valuable services for Canadian art. They carried along the pioneer work by interpreting the Canadian scene through Canadian eyes and they presented these qualities abroad.

Being among the innovators, the group underwent the customary criticism and disparagement at home. Individually each member made a personal contribution to their common art, whether it be A. Y. Jackson's rich sense of paint, the austere formalism of Harris, the lyricism of MacDonald, the delicately conceived portraits of Varley, Fitzgerald's finely painted nudes and figures or the exciting struggle for realization that characterizes the work of Arthur Lismer, Carmichael and Carson also specialized in highly designed water colors, and their influence has been widely felt in that medium.

TOM THOMSON

Many people think that Tom Thomson was an actual member of the Group of Seven, but the fact is, that it was originated two or three years after his death. According to the booklet that Thoreau MacDonald wrote concerning the group for the Canadian Art Series, Tom Thomson was drowned in Canoe Lake in Algonquin Park in 1917.

It was a great loss to the future of Canadian art. Thomson was a true genius, who, without discussing or analyzing worked from some inner power and feeling for the forest. Thoreau MacDonald wrote, "The north woods were in his bones and he brought his sketches out of the bush as naturally as a hunter brings out fish or partridge." Tom Thomson had the reputation of being the best and kindest of men.

In the famous McMichael Collection at Kleinburg are 41 Tom Thomson sketches and a Thomson canvas. In speaking of Thomson, Robert McMichael said, "If you follow his paintings during the last three years of his life, you can see his style changing and improving almost month by month. You can't help but wonder what he would have done if he had lived longer."

To perpetuate the memory of Thomson several years ago the McMichael purchased the shack in which Thomson painted his great canvases and had it moved from Toronto to their property. It is his monument to this day.

(In the McMichael apartment, the black and white sketches of Thoreau MacDonald dominate the scene.)

After Thomson's death, the future group members pressed to the fight on all fronts. They startled and sometimes shocked the Canadian public with their vivid and lively exhibitions. In 1920, the Group of Seven was formally named. It was a friendly alliance, held together by common ideals.

The original seven members who gave it its name were Lawren Harris, A. Y. Jackson, Arthur Lismer, J. E. H. MacDonald, Frank Carmichael, Franz H. Johnston and F. H. Varley. Johnston resigned in 1922 and A. J. Casson, Edwin Holgate and L. L. Fitzgerald became members in 1926, 1931 and 1932 respectively.

## Conservation Authority Holding "Breakfast And Hike" This Sunday

The Metro Conservation Authority is holding a "breakfast and hike" event for the public at its Greenwood Conservation Area this Sunday commencing at 8 a.m.

The Greenwood area is located four miles north of Pickering on the Greenwood Road.

Those taking part in the hike will be served breakfast at 8 a.m. by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind consisting of pancakes, maple syrup, ham or sausage and coffee for a nominal fee.

The hike will be divided into four categories with hikers selecting their choice - birds, botany, forestry, surface geology. Four men who are expert in their respective fields will lead the groups.

They are: Jim Baillie, well-known ornithologist at the Royal Ontario Museum; James

## In The Spotlight

(Continued from Page 2)

of two musicians who are also painters should produce an unusual program with wide appeal.

Roy Robson, principal of Joseph Gibson School in Maple, is both musician and oil painter, and for about a year he has been collaborating with Gallant Gondas, a concert pianist and recording artist, who uses lacquer enamel for his visual art, many of them abstract in conception.

Performing both in duet and solo on piano and organ, the painter-musicians have a well chosen program of music ranging from show tunes to classics, and each artist has illustrated his feeling for the individual compositions in a collection of paintings. For example, "Liebestraum" by Liszt is represented by Mr. Gondas as a study with dream-like quality in shades of mauve and blue.

So successful was their initial joint appearance at Heintzman Hall before an audience of over 300, that they have decided to aim at a larger public and will present their dual act at St. Lawrence Market Auditorium at Jarvis and Front Streets, on June 5, at 8:30 pm.

Their paintings will be displayed around the hall so that the audience may see for themselves what the music has inspired in the artists and compare their own response to the combined forms of expression.

Mr. Gondas will be performing some of his works, popular classics by masters such as Liszt, Chopin and Debussy, and together with Mr. Robson, selections from West Side Story, Sound of Music and Fiddler on the Roof. Their finale is a dramatic rendering of the theme from Exodus. I would be particularly interested to see their visual interpretation of this piece of music.

## R. Hill Council Backs Kitchener In Provincial Assessment Protest

A resolution of the City of Kitchener which contains a strong demand for the Ontario Government to defer provincial take-over of assessment and transfer it to the regional government was endorsed by Richmond Hill Council May 12.

The Kitchener resolution demands that the provincial government:

- Stop interfering in the affairs of local government until it has studied the predictable result of any proposed change in full consultation with local officials;
- Immediately abandon its proposed takeover of the municipal property assessment function or, alternatively, defer implementation of the takeover until a full study of its effects on municipal administration has been carried out in consultation with local officials and the Government of Ontario has pledged itself to return the regional level of local government once same has been formed and the desired reassessment has been completed;
- Immediately review and alter its supplementary grants to school boards so as to equally benefit the ratepayers of all municipalities regardless of population.

The resolution is accompanied by four pages of single spaced typing from the mayor of that city along with an equal number of pages signed by the city treasurer in which they have expressed deep and bitter concern over the provincial takeover of assessment.

Mayor Sid McLennan described the takeover, to start in 1970 and be completed in 1971, as yet another illustration of the lack of direction which has characterized provincial action in local affairs in the past months.

"In recent times, local functions such as air pollution control and administration of justice have been completely withdrawn from the local sphere," the mayor charged. "Others like conservation and health services have been transferred to regional boards so large and with so many provincially appointed

members that local control is now merely a legal fiction.

The municipal council has been deprived of even the weak voice it once had in education, and all that now remains is for you to take the final step and assume total jurisdiction in educational matters. Finally you have usurped jurisdiction in property assessment—the very base and foundation stone of the little vitality remaining to the municipalities."

Pointing out that the ratepayers of Kitchener received a tax increase of 8.5 mills for education this year, the mayor stated, "With other local councils we were disappointed when your promises went unfulfilled again this year and educational costs to the local taxpayer rose sharply." He called the decision to make additional grants to all local municipalities except those having a population of 60,000 or more - unfair, undemocratic and rankly discriminatory.

City Treasurer R. V. Eby pointed out that the city had its own computer and operates a most efficient assessment department. The assessment and tax function of the computer is completely integrated and designed to provide accurate, complete and up-to-date information when needed.

He pointed out the cost of health services in two years under the county health unit had increased from \$1.70 per capita to \$3.87, an increase of 128% without material improvement in the quality of health services.

The Kitchener clerk vehemently attacked the "morass of confusion and bitterness over the new county board of education system, which has increased the city's tax rate eight mills."

Teach By Day - Work By Night - 51 Take Course

It was double duty, but not double pay for the 49 elementary school teachers and two principals who completed a three-day in-service training course in art at Langstaff Public School May 6, 7 and 8.

After teaching all day, the teachers, chiefly from Vaughan Township and Richmond Hill, worked from 4 to 10 pm under the guidance of Dorothy Wiese, a consultant with Canada Crayon Company who puts on two such courses in Canada each year.

The company also supplies all materials used by the teachers, including oil and chalk pastels, liquid, powdered, acrylic and finger paints and a new polymer medium.

In the three-day course the teachers were introduced to about 50 new ideas, and many of them had put some of the ideas into practice in their classrooms before the week was out.

The course was arranged by Mrs. Lorraine Mandelbaum, art supervisor in Vaughan Township schools.

The teachers took the course on their own time with no subsidy from the York County Board of Education, and by Thursday evening had turned out a wide variety of works of art ranging from chalk drawings to paper jewellery.

Isobel Lindsay, program consultant in art with the Ontario Department of Education, dropped in on the final evening to watch the class in action.

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