

Art In The County 2000 Enormous Success!

Over 2400 visitors, including some 1300 from the County and surrounding area, took in this year's Art in the County exhibition, organized by the Prince Edward Arts Council from June 23-July 16 upstairs at the Picton Fire Hall. An estimated 1100 visitors to the exhibition came from other parts of Ontario, across Canada, the United States and from as far as France, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and even China.

The exhibition, featuring 104 works - some 40 more than last year--created by 60 County artists, was a very popular event over its three-week run. It enjoyed great success thanks to many volunteers under committee chair John Cruickshank and major sponsors Procter & Gamble, Bell Canada, Wayne Cooper of RBC Dominion Securities, Esroc Italcementi Group, Merrill Inn, Currah's Caf, & Restaurant, the County of Prince Edward--and many other donors.

Many of the visitors took in Art In The County as part of their visit to the County, some who have come regularly to see this annual display of art by local artists. Organizers were delighted at the interest of residents of the County and surrounding area, many of whom made several visits to the exhibition. Visitors expressed pleasure at having the opportunity to see an art show of such high calibre and one that was arranged in such an eye-catching display. Virtually all visitors from outside the County indicated that they had spent at least one night here. Some come regularly to a cottage or family or to stay in one of the many inns and b&bs. Others were pleased to discover the County and its many resources. A frequent comment was that Art In The County adds immeasurably to the range of activities that PEC has to offer during the summer. Wayne McNulty, chair of the PEC Arts council, said "We are very proud of the effort that went into organizing this annual event and thankful to everyone - artists, volunteers, sponsors and visitors--who contributed towards its success."

Participating artists had an opportunity to have their work displayed before a large number of people and over one quarter of the 104 works on display were sold during the 3 week exhibition. As well, several visitors commissioned

Continued on page 14

Wonderful Exhibition of Art in the County

by Carole TenBrink

The Prince Edward County Arts Council have launched an impressive show of local art. It's outstanding both for the quality and quantity of work presented. If you're thinking of small town arts and craft shows, forget it. This is vibrant fine art in a delightful range of media, from watercolour and oils, to photography and mixed media, right on through to sculpture, porcelain, glass, fibre and quilting. Wandering around the spacious setting in the Picton Town Hall makes one feel proud all over again, to be living in the County. The exhibition ran from June 23 to July 16, in Picton, at the corner of King and Ross Streets, above the fire hall.

Three non-resident, professionally qualified jurors carefully chose the 103 works exhibited. They granted jurors' choice awards, as well, to the following artists: Pat Busscher for "The Audience", Graham Davies for 'Danielle #1', Jack Klein for 'Wakefield Waters', Peter Mennacher for 'Hyppolite', and Bill Reddick's 'Bowl #80'.

I went around, purposefully not paying any attention to the jurors' choices, and just let my eyes choose to feast where they would. In some cases, the places my eyes lingered most lovingly matched the jurors' expert scrutiny, in others not. First, here's the matches. I, too, was captivated by Graham Davies 'Danielle @ 1', a black and white photograph which captures light caressing every curve of the seated nude figure. The photographer

Continued on page 8

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