

These artists stick together—until they get down to work

By LINDA JACOBS

Individually they are artists of some repute. Together they are The Oakville Group, several artists whose works have been shown as a collection in many galleries across the province.

The Oakville Group was started in 1972 by well-known artist, Alice Waywell.

"We meet together and we show together, but we don't work together," says Waywell. "We do our work in our own way in our own studios."

The current members of the group are Waywell, Tom Mathews, Gwynyth Young, Heather Grindley, Josef Petriska, Alan Kingsland, Adolph Piotrowski, Ruth Gilmore, Marjorie Marlatt, Joan Robinson, Richard Kramer, Lila Irving, Margie Boden and Gloria Marshall.

The late Harry Howard was an original member. Howard's work is shown at the permanent home of The Oakville Group at the Oakville House of Art.

Almost from its inception, The Oakville Group has been showing all over Ontario. A Ford Canada grant early on helped defray the costs of a travelling show that took The Oakville Group to places as distant as Sault Saint Marie and Kingston.

A big honor is coming up for the group when they begin a show in May at the Macdonald Gallery at Queen's Park.

The Little Gallery on Reynolds Street was forming at about the same time as The Oakville Group. The Little Gallery is another joint venture of several artists who needed exhibition space and lacked the money to finance a gallery solely. Gallery members pay the rent co-operatively and share exhibition space.

The art buyer gets a break, too, because the Little Gallery markup is much less than most commercial galleries charge.

The Old Bronte Post Office Gallery has quickly become a popular spot for local artists to show in its less than two years of existence. The gallery provides a front room in which to showcase a one-man show and a back room devoted to arts and crafts by several artists.

There are two town-owned galleries: Centennial Gallery, operated as part of the library, and the Gairloch Gardens Gallery, a bequest to the town from the late James Gairdner.

Gairloch Gardens, which includes the house, studio and surrounding estate grounds in east Oakville, provides a charming setting in which to appreciate works of art.

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House of Brougham started with a dream of two people to reproduce Early Canadian Furniture using the old and true methods of cabinet making.

Their dream has grown from a 2 person staff in 1970 to 50 people in 1977. Besides their manufacturing shop, they now have three showrooms, one in Fergus, in a fine old stone mill on the Grand River, one in Brougham in their 140 year-old family home, and one in Oakville.

Oakville is not a stranger to the Elmers, as Mrs. Elmer's mother and father, Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Neil, lived in Oakville in the 1960's, and Mrs. Elsa Neil was very active in the Oakville Historical Society.

Although House of Brougham has grown tremendously in these seven years, they have never wavered from their original concept in reproducing Canadiana furnishing, which is to use authentic designs, reproducing with top quality and sell at a realistic price. This is made possible of course, by having their own manufacturing and their own shops.

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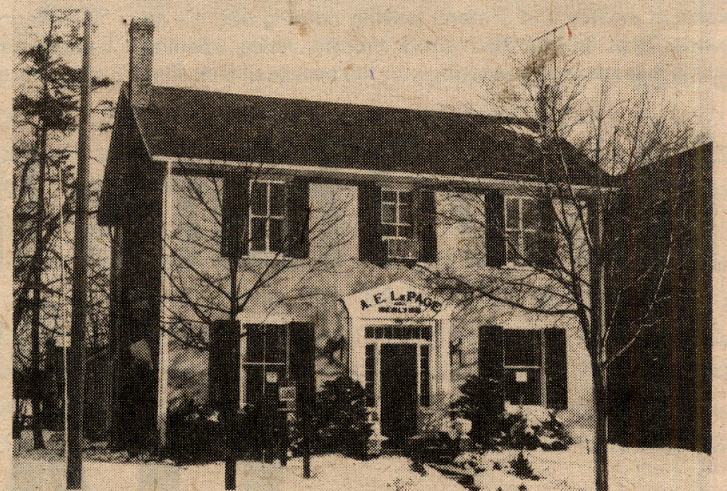
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