

Weekender

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Famous paintings roost in Unionville

By STEVE HOUSTON
Staff Reporter

Group of Seven artist Fred Varley is coming home to stay.

Paintings by the late artist whose work characterized that era in Canadian art history, has been bequeathed to the town by longtime owner Kathleen McKay after months of negotiations.

And the home in which the artist lived his late years will become a public gallery to house many of his and other paintings.

Unionville Councillor Fred Cox announced the news at Council on Tuesday, saying the owner has agreed to leave the artist's work, and several pieces of his studio furniture, to the town.

The move brought praise from the Markham Group of Artists which has long been lobbying to establish a gallery in the Markham area.

Judy Livingston, president of the Group of Artists, said the public gallery will finally offer residents a chance to experience the work of both Mr. Varley and area artists.

"It's a million dollar gift that's being left to the town of Markham," said Councillor Cox in an interview on Thursday.

The inheritance marks the end of a 10-year quest by the town to have the artist's work left in Unionville.

Mr. Cox has been negotiating regularly with Mrs. McKay for the last six months.

But the town must meet conditions before Mr. Varley's work and the home he lived in on Unionville's Main St., can be brought before the public.

Mr. Cox said the conditions will readily be met by Markham officials.

Mrs. McKay's provisos included in her bequest include:

- That the gallery be named The Kathleen Gormley McKay Gallery.

- That the Main St. home be established as a permanent public gallery.

- That Mrs. McKay or a representative be allowed to sit on the gallery's governing body.

Mr. Cox added that the town will take steps to have the work preserved in the proper atmosphere.

"This is the first step, but it's a good step," noted Councillor Cox. "It's the chance for the town of Markham if we're ever going to have a serious art gallery."



Widening 404 on backburner

When it comes to widening Hwy 404 Markham Mayor Carole Bell wants the transportation ministry to "get on with the job and quit fooling around". She made the comment Tuesday when Council read a letter from Transportation Minister Ed Fulton saying widening on the south portion of Hwy 404 would not begin until around 1992.

Responding to council's request that the government immediately widen Hwy 404 in Markham, Mr. Fulton said such work won't be started for several years.

In the letter, Mr. Fulton said the government's first priority is to extend the highway to Davis Drive in Newmarket before widening the southern section.

Although he mentioned a study which recommends widening Hwy 404 south of Major Mackenzie Dr., he said expansion work is slated toward the end of the ministry's "five year work plan" — around 1992.

Council approved a recommendation to send another letter urging immediate construction.

United Way time for Markham & Stouffville

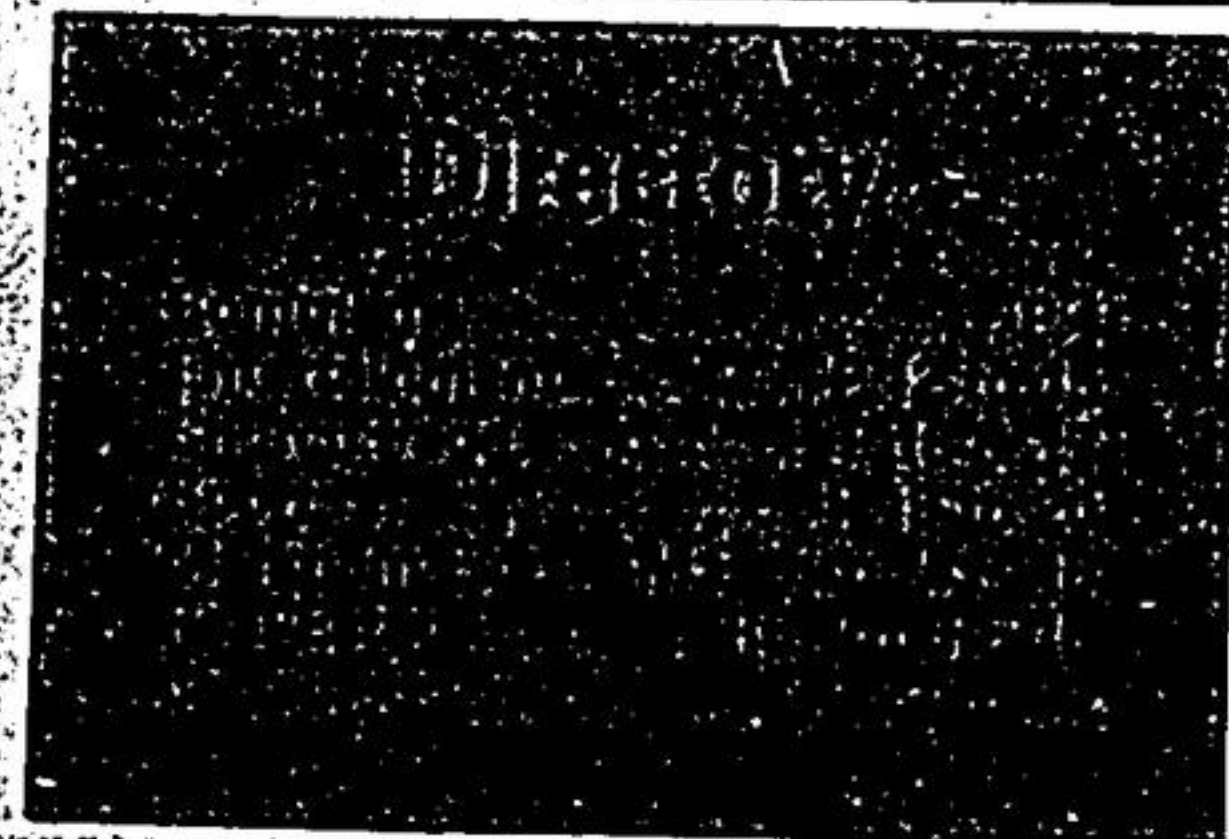
The coming of autumn means United Way time for York Region and Markham area. Chairman Krantz Scarlitta (with lots of help from a Markham Hydro crew) kicked off the local campaign with a banner across Unionville's Main Street. He after a local goal of \$450,750. Meanwhile, Len Tweedle (York's honorary chairman), Pat Courage and Hank DeGroot are running the Whitechurch-Stouffville area. They're aiming to raise \$16,400.

—Sjoerd Wiltavan

WHAT'S INSIDE



Granny Blyves appears in another story from 1987



John Williams is in with motor 67000000

