

VARLEY

A Gallery Whose Time Has Come

A Chronology of The Gallery's Development

1978
The Town of Markham purchases the Gothic Revival style cottage at 197 Main Street in historic Unionville, where Group of Seven member Frederick Varley spent the last 12 years of his life with Kathleen Gormley McKay and her husband Donald. The house, dubbed "Burndenet," by the McKays, was built originally by Kathleen's great-grandfather, Salem Eckhardt in the 1840s.

1988
Kathleen Gormley McKay and the Town of Markham sign an agreement whereby she promises to donate her entire art collection of more than 80 works by Frederick Varley and his contemporaries conditional on the provision that a suitable facility for its display and preservation be found. The Varley-McKay Art Committee forms to find a suitable gallery space, with Kathleen McKay as a founding member.

1989
An architectural study of the heritage house purchased from Kathleen McKay in 1978 is commissioned by the Town of Markham to determine the feasibility of its conversion into an art gallery. It is recommended that the house is not suitable environmentally as a public art gallery, but that Varley's basement art studio be restored, and that the rest of the house be used as an art centre to teach art classes, host workshops and exhibit the art of local artists.

The Town of Markham purchases property at the corner of Main Street and Carlton Road as the future art gallery site in close proximity to the former McKay-Varley residence.

A concept proposal is submitted to council for the establishment of the Kathleen Gormley McKay Art Gallery and the converted heritage house to be called the Fred Varley Art Centre.

1991
Lord Cultural Resources, Planning & Management Inc. is hired as a consultant for the gallery project. The Varley-McKay residence opens to the public for the first time and is well-received, attracting more than 3,000 visitors in one weekend during the Unionville Festival.

1993
The Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham, affiliated with the Town's Department of Recreation and Culture is established to facilitate the acceptance of charitable donations and the issuance of tax receipts.

Markson Borooah Hodgson Architects Inc. is hired to design the new art gallery with J.S. Watson & Associates Ltd. as the project management firm.

1994
Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works announces its contribution of \$2.4 million, two thirds of the cost, toward funding the Gallery Project. The Town of Markham's commitment of \$1.2 million is to be raised through a capital campaign chaired by Jennifer Deacon. The campaign strategy targets mainly corporate and private donors.

1995
The new gallery is to be officially named The Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery of Markham and the art centre named the Kathleen Gormley McKay Art Centre.

During Unionville Festival weekend, a groundbreaking reception is held for the new gallery.

1996
Sharon Gaum-Kuchar is appointed as the gallery's director/curator.

1997
The Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery of Markham opens to the public on May 31 with the inaugural exhibition, *Varley: A Celebration*.

Information

Location

The Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery of Markham is conveniently located in the historic village of Unionville, situated at the northwest corner of Main Street and Carlton Road.

Hours of Operation

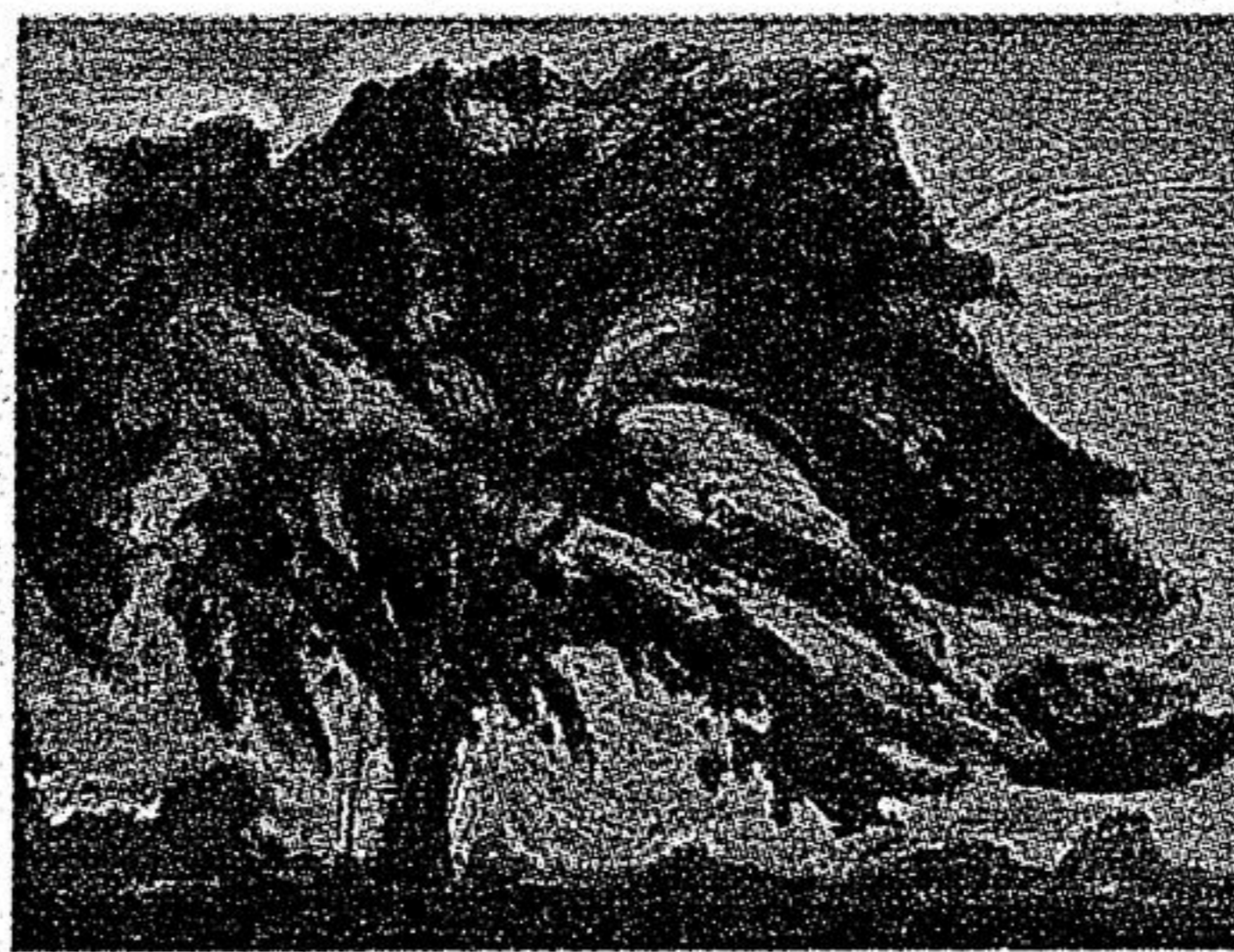
Monday..... closed
Tuesday..... closed
Wednesday..... 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday..... 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday..... 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday..... 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday..... 12 to 5 p.m.

The Gallery is closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.

General Admission Fees

Adults.....	\$4
Seniors.....	\$3
Students.....	\$3
Youths.....	\$2
Children.....	Free
Family.....	\$10
Members.....	Free

Surcharges may apply for special events



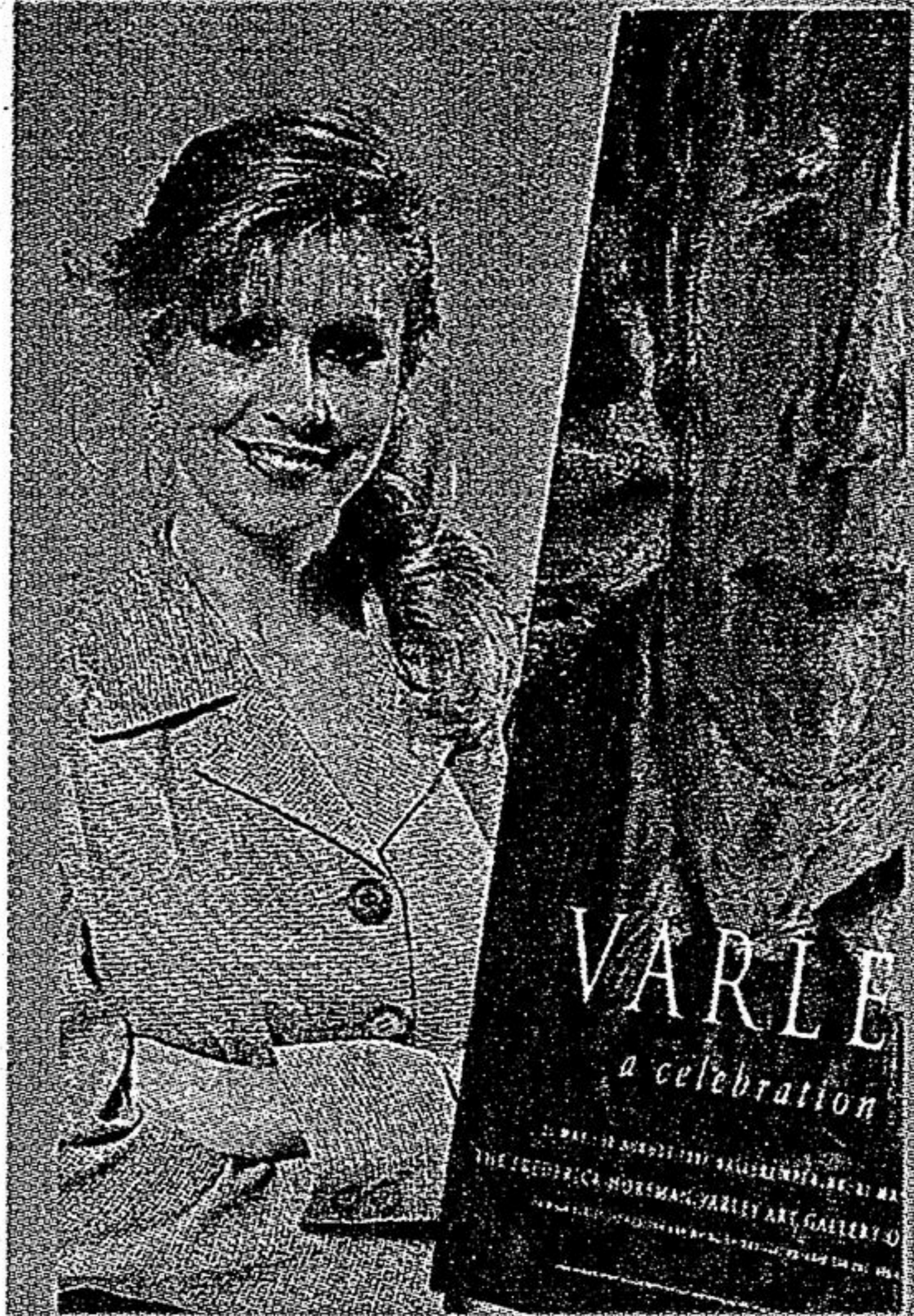
'Tree' (Ferdinand the Bull).
Frederick H. Varley. 1940.

Memberships

Individual.....	\$40 one year/\$70 two years
Student.....	\$25 one year/\$45 two years
Family.....	\$60 one year/\$105 two years
Corporate.....	\$300 one year/\$500 two years

Members receive one year's unlimited general admission to the gallery and Kathleen Gormley McKay Art Centre, special invitations to exhibition previews and members' events, regular members' newsletter and 15 per cent discount on Gallery Shop purchases.

Director/Curator's Message



On behalf of the staff of The Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery of Markham, I would like to extend a heartfelt note of appreciation to the many people in the community who deserve to be acknowledged for their tireless efforts in realizing the gallery's opening. Working together as a team, we have planted the seeds for the gallery's promising future, a future that is inextricably bound to the heartbeat of the community.

The tremendous dedication of Mayor Donald Cousens and members of Council, Dalo Keliar and Barbara Roth of the Community Services Division, along with many other Town of Markham employees, merits special attention.

Nurturing the project since its inception, the Gallery Advisory Board must also be thanked for their tremendous spirit and on-going support throughout this project's evolution.

We are infinitely grateful to the hundreds of Capital Campaign donors who generously provided their financial support towards building this magnificent gallery.

To the many dedicated community volunteers, we offer our sincerest gratitude for your ongoing moral support, for infusing us with energy, and for believing in the dream we collectively achieved.

Thank you.

Sharon Gaum-Kuchar
Director/Curator
The Frederick Horsman Varley
Art Gallery of Markham

The Gallery Shop

The Gallery Shop features handcrafted jewellery and ceramics, Group of Seven inspired art reproductions, notecards and T-shirts, an array of picture frames, art books, children's activity items and many more unique gift ideas with distinctive artistic flair.

■ The Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery of Markham features frequently changing exhibitions from the permanent collection as well as historical and contemporary exhibitions drawn from local, national and international sources. New ways of seeing and appreciating art are enhanced through a broad range of dynamic hands-on art-related activities, including group tours, school programs, studio courses, lectures, workshops and family activities, designed to appeal to audiences of all ages and interests. The gallery is wheelchair accessible. ■