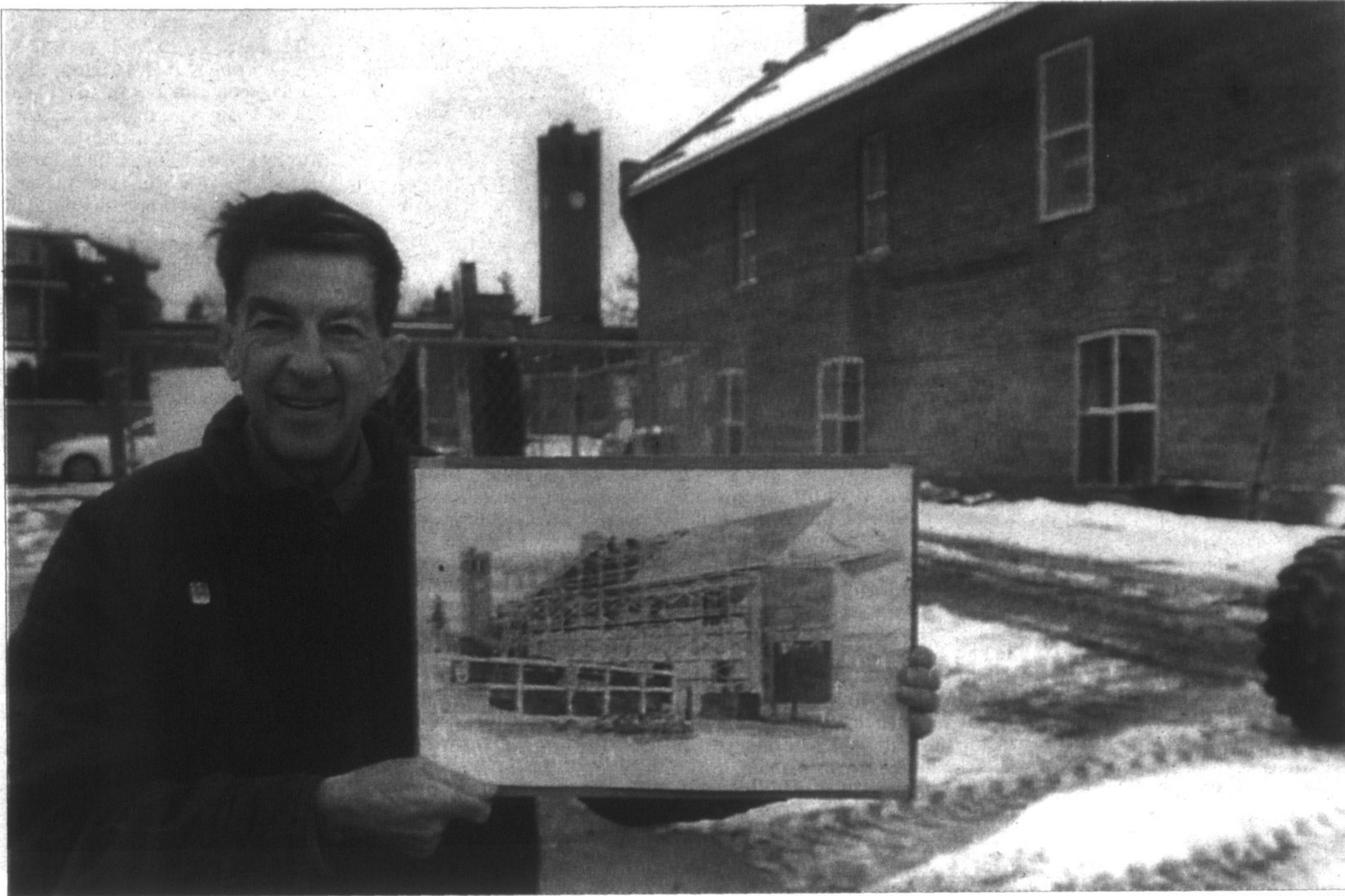


SUN-TRIBUNE PEOPLE



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Lorne Grove, who remembers the old town hall building as a child, returns regularly to sketch it as it is transformed into an arts and culture centre.

Artist feels connected to Nineteen on Park

BY SANDRA BOLAN
Staff Writer

Artist Lorne Grove is so intrigued by architecture, that when he saw the foundation being poured for Nineteen on the Park, he had to stop and immediately start sketching.

Ever since that fateful day back in August, when the 70-year-old was out for a Sunday stroll, he has been returning regularly to sketch the building's progress.

One of Mr. Grove's larger and most intricate pieces, which forced him to return multiple times in short succession to the site, is of the workers completing the roof.

For Mr. Grove, the building represents more than the arts and cultural centre it is currently being turned into; it stands as a fond memory of his childhood.

Mr. Grove grew up on a farm on Hwy. 48 just south of Stouffville and every week, the family would make the trek into town to bring their

milk to the creamery, which was located just behind the building.

"It's a childhood landmark," Mr. Grove said of the building. "All my life, that's been a connection."

Sketching and painting water colours of barns, buildings, roads and railway tracks is something Mr. Grove has been doing ever since he was old enough to put pencil to paper.

"I've always been interested in recording and keeping track of buildings and architecture," Mr. Grove said. "It's a passion, almost an addiction."

So passionate and intrigued by his surroundings is Mr. Grove that "even on our honeymoon I got carried away with it. Imagine me wasting time (sketching) on my honeymoon," he said.

Mr. Grove has also admitted to causing a few traffic tie-ups by sitting on the side of the road in order to sketch something that has caught his eye.

One time, while sitting in a

ditch sketching, some on-lookers were so concerned Mr. Grove was injured, they called 911 and had an ambulance dispatched to his location.

When the ambulance driver arrived on scene, it was obvious Mr. Grove was not in distress, but the ambulance attendant was so interested in what he was doing, that he stuck around to watch Mr. Grove sketch — and to ensure no cars hit him.

Mr. Grove refuses to call his work 'art'; "it's just graphic things I record," you will never see his work hanging in a museum.

"I don't display or have any paintings up much, even at home; I have them in boxes," he said. "Museums are great for records; my museum is just in a box."

If anyone is interested in seeing the construction of 19th on the Park, through the sketches of Mr. Grove, they are going to have to go to his house and get him to pull out a box or two.

OPENING EVENTS PLANNED FOR MAY

Nineteen on the Park's spring opening will be celebrated with two weeks of events, including a variety concert on May 9.

Other events include a Bridge the Generations day that will bring youth and senior performances and activities together, as well as a Sustainable Stouffville day, which will feature displays of green products, speakers, workshops and a trade show.

Gala opening events will include a career resource workshop for parents struggling to guide their children into a career path. A meet-and-greet with the mayor and other town officials is also planned, as is an ecumenical workshop.

Whitchurch-Stouffville News Digest

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Stouffville Christmas trees donated to troops' families

Real Canadian Christmas trees from the Stouffville-area's Taylor Tree Farm, have been donated to families of Canadian troops serving overseas.

Taylor Tree Farms was one of six Ontario Christmas tree farms to participate in the second annual Trees for Canadian Troop Families Program yesterday.

The program, organized by the Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association, was designed to spread Christmas cheer and provide real Christmas trees to families of our troops serving in Afghanistan and elsewhere overseas.

This year, more than 1,000 fresh trees were delivered to 15 Canadian Forces Bases across Canada for distribution to these families.

A real Christmas tree is an age-old symbol of hope for people world-wide.

Parade-goers can help Christmas causes

Attending this afternoon's Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade?

You can help others while having a good time:

- Volunteers, including Whitchurch-Stouffville firefighters, will be collecting donations for the Koffee for Kandahar fund. Organizers hope to buy a coffee for all 2,500 Canadian troops serving in Afghanistan.

- The Stouffville Clippers minor atom AE hockey team will be collecting loose change along the parade route. The money will be donated to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank.

The parade begins at 2 p.m. in east end Stouffville. It heads west on Main Street and ends at Weldon Road (Giant Tiger).

SOUND OFF

Have something to say about these or other stories?

E-mail us at jmason@yrmg.com



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