



MUSEUM GETS VALUABLE SOUND ARCHIVE

J. Austin Cook was a leading figure in Orillia life in the 1940's and 1950's. A business executive, he served as a member of Orillia's Town Council over a period of ten years, including several years as mayor. He was much admired for the integrity he brought to public life, his active role at St. Paul's United Church and the warmth and geniality he displayed at all times. A broad smile was his trademark.

Enlisting at the age of 18, Austin Cook served in the trenches in World War One. He was vigorous and active well into his 90's, driving his own car and travelling extensively. Family, friends and colleagues gathered at St. Paul's United Church in 1998 to celebrate his one hundredth birthday and a

few months later in May of that same year to attend his funeral.

Recently the family of Austin Cook donated a collection of some memorable moments from the life of the former mayor recorded more than half a century ago by CFOR, Orillia's own radio station. They include the welcome he extended to Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent at Couchiching Beach Park on August 28, 1952 and – earlier that same year – the official opening of the Orillia Community Centre, the official opening of the Princess Margaret wing of Soldiers Memorial Hospital and the ceremonies observing the 75th anniversary of the town, during which he was presented with a chain of office by then Premier Leslie M. Frost, another proud Orillian. Other

disks contain his 1952 inaugural address, a radio talk on behalf of Church and School Week, a reading of the 23rd Psalm at Orillia's memorial service for King George VI and a ribbon cutting at the new home of the Trent Valley Baking Company.

Peter Rowe, a former engineer/technician at CFOR donated his services to transfer the original 78rpm recordings to cassettes for the museum's use in their archives.

Pete McGarvey

Editor's note - Not only did Peter Rowe donate his time to the above project but Pete McGarvey was instrumental in making all the arrangements for the transfer of the recordings to cassettes and to supplying the cassettes as well.

ART EDUCATION PROGRAMME—2003

Once again our programmes in the schools are a major success so far this winter. We have also added another programme to the existing ones of Shilling, Morrisseau, Group of Seven and the Walk Through Time. **Melody Madden** has begun a programme called "The Art of Trees :- Textiles". In this programme, students will explore trees and their contribution to the world we live in. Using the Museum's collection of artwork depicting trees, Melody will discuss the

vital and important job trees do that are essential to animals, people and the environment. The programme will be an interactive programme involving much student participation. Students will examine trees in relation to colour, texture and elements of design. They will also participate in a hands-on activity and create unique trees of their own from various textiles. It should be fun and I think the words "awesome", "can we do this again" and "this is fun" will be heard again. Our thanks must go to the

dedicated artists involved in this school programme and also to the volunteers who assist each teacher with their respective classes.

Exchange Update is published as a supplement to the Orillia Museum of Art & History's quarterly newsletter to keep members informed of the latest news and events at the Museum.

CREATIVE ADVENTURE

As I write this I can tell everyone that our March Break Course is well under way with a full class for **Deb Brown** who is leading the children. They will experimenting with some unusual acrylic painting techniques and making a variety of playful crafts, goofy birds, art cards and much more. The children all love Deb and her wonderful ideas and we hope that we will be able to persuade her to conduct summer courses as well. Keep your eyes posted for further information as time rolls on.



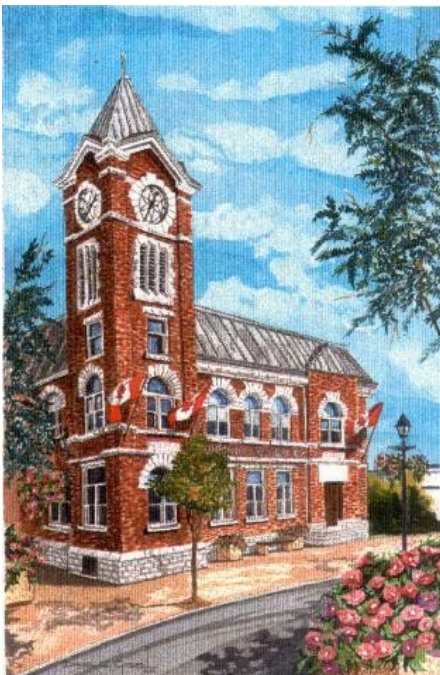
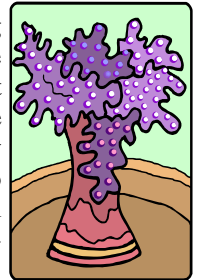
ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF ART GALLERIES

Check the insert for details.

Please take note that the OAAG has made some changes to the reciprocal admission programme. They are not covering as many galleries as in the past – I presume that the cost of administering the institutions is catching up to them like everyone else so I have included the new list with this issue.

ADULT PROGRAMMES—2003

I asked in our last Exchange if anyone would prefer any special adult programmes for the coming spring and summer. **Rosalee Hamilton** is willing to come in for a lesson on teaching us all how to make centre pieces for our tables or wreaths to go on the front door. As of to-day I have only had one request and that is not enough to go ahead and make arrangements for the course. If any one is interested, please call the Museum at 326-2159 and let us know your preference. We are also exploring the possibility of having a lady from Bond Head come in and show us some beautiful old quilts as well as old buttons. She is also willing to teach us how to make buttons using a variety of methods. These programmes are for the public and you are all welcome. So please give us a call and if you have a special request, let us know and we will see what arrangements can be made.



CULTURAL SPACES CANADA APPLICATION

As I write this we are still waiting to hear from the Federal Government as to the status of our application for funding. As soon as we hear we will be able to report to all our members where we stand on this important issue. The letters that were written to the Minister, we hope, will encourage Ms. Copps to review our situation with a positive outlook. It has been a long hard road and many thanks must go to those who have worked so hard to bring this issue to a head.

Exchange

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ORILLIA MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY

For Additional Information Please Contact Us At:
Orillia Museum of Art & History
11 Peter Street South
Orillia, Ontario L3V 5A8

Phone: (705) 326-2159
Fax: (705) 326-7828

Museum Chairman—Jean E. Sarjeant

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GALLERY SHOP HOURS

Monday to Friday - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday - closed

COACHHOUSE GALLERY HOURS

Wednesday to Friday - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday - upon request
Any other time - upon request

ADMISSION TO COACHHOUSE GALLERY
By donation. Members free.

DONATIONS TO OUR PERMANENT COLLECTION

Recently the Museum was given a painting by Travis Shilling called "The Cocoon". **Mr. Brian R. Adams** has donated the painting and we are extremely appreciative of his gesture at this time. This work of art is now in the Gallery Shop for everyone to appreciate – so if you are in the downtown area, please drop into the Shop and appreciate the work of young Mr. Shilling. Other donations keep coming into the Museum. Many are from the early 1900's and a very interest-



Mr. Brian Adams presents "The Cocoon" to Jean Sarjeant

ing collection has been donated by the **Orillia Conservancy Group**. When they took over the Grant property last fall they found a lot of artifacts in the old house located on the property. We have received some very old journals that were written from the early 1920 right up to the 1960 era. They really are fascinating and it certainly gives us a window on the past.

The Orillia Museum of Art and History gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**. The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative. The Foundation provides grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts, culture, sports, recreation, environment and social service sectors.



THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION

THE VOLUNTEER PARTY



Bernice Wyndowe and Jean Sarjeant

The volunteer party was well attended on a cold blustery day. **Bernice Wyndowe**, a volunteer herself, arranged all the delicious food and coffee and made sure that everyone was well looked after. The flowers and candles on the table were beautiful, and to the surprise of almost everyone the china cups and saucers that belong to the Museum were appreciated by one and all. Many thanks must go to Bernice for her efforts and her comments afterwards were – "Can I do this again when we re-open the Sir Sam Steele Building?" From a lady who is in her 80's – her positive outlook on life is wonderful!!!

Speaking of volunteers – I must thank **Olive Schisler** at this time as well for donating some paper that her husband, Cliff, had collected over the years. Our children's programmes will certainly be able to make use of it all and it will help with the costs of those programmes. Thank you Olive – it will be put to good use.