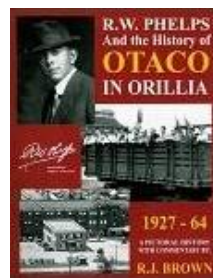


Launch of *R.W. Phelps and the History of OTACO in Orillia: 1927-64*

On May 25th, O.M.A.H. hosted the launch of *R.W. Phelps and the History of OTACO in Orillia: 1927-64*, a pictorial history with commentary by R.J. Brown of Thor Motors. Mr. Brown was on hand to sign copies of the book, which tells the story of his grandfather, R.W. Phelps, as it was told to him—complete with photographs, anecdotes and a unique family insight.

Thanks to a generous donation by Mr. Brown of 400 books, O.M.A.H. was able to raise over \$2000. Copies are still available in the Gallery Shop for \$19.95 plus tax.



In Memoriam

Some of OMAH's valued members have recently passed away. We would like to acknowledge their special contributions and send our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.

Dr. James T. Angus Jack Wynott Marjorie Carter

Volunteers Needed

OMAH is looking for volunteers to work at the front desk on Tuesday afternoons, Fridays and/or Saturdays. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gloria Taylor at 705-326-2159.

Thank You!

OMAH would like to thank Tiffany Barton, Katie Calcaterra, Melissa Hankinson, Shannon Hawke, Jessica MacKinnon, Sherri-lee Paines, Rebecca Saucier, and Ed Williams for all of their hard work. We wish everyone the very best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

Welcome!

OMAH is pleased to welcome a new addition to our team, Alisha Wilson, and welcome back Sherri-lee Paines and Kate Zubczyk.

Thank you to the following sponsors:



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Muse News is published by the Orillia Museum of Art & History six times a year. Muse News is available free of charge with a current membership. The museum gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of its members and supporters. The museum is a registered charitable organization No. 13723 0587 RR0001.

ORILLIA MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY

Muse News



WHERE PAST AND PRESENT MEET

Farewell & Thank You!

-by Katie Calcaterra

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 4
JULY 2010

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I feel as though I need to express my thoughts and feelings about the time I have spent at OMAH as the Programs Coordinator in a city I called home for the past three years.

I remember clearly the day when I first visited Orillia for my job interview. My stomach was filled with butterflies and I have to confess coming from the North, I honestly believed Orillia was a stop along the highway on my way to Toronto (I have since learned my lesson). I had no idea that there was a beautiful little city nestled between two lakes that would prove to offer me so many amazing and unforgettable experiences.

I would like to thank the following people: Sim Salata, the former Director/Curator of OMAH who hired me and provided me with the opportunity to prove that I could do this job. I was handed a file folder marked education programs and ran with it. I have since learned that trial by fire is possibly the best way to learn.

My former colleagues, Anita Miles and Melissa Launchbury were my support system, friends and partners in crime after Sim left and they truly deserve recognition for their commitment to OMAH and I thank them for making my time here so lively and enjoyable. The former Chairman of OMAH's board, Will Davis who supported all of us through the transition from Sim Salata to Gloria Taylor and to whom I owe a debt of gratitude for being such a great boss.

OMAH's education instructors, Julianna and Terri, patiently walked me through our education programs, answered all of my questions and never shied away from giving me advice when I needed it the most.

OMAH's volunteers and Board members: these individuals spend their valuable time devoted to OMAH and Orillia's cultural past and present.

I couldn't have done my job without you. I need to specifically give a shout out to the Gift Shop Ladies (at least that's what I call them) Elaine, Jean, Kathy, Vilda, Sandy and Bethany as well as the gentlemen and ladies from the Research Room Marcel, David, Bill, Wendy and Anne, all of whom I am lucky to call my friends and colleagues and all of whom I have learned a great deal from and laughed a great deal with.

The Peter Street business owners, artists and artisans and my committee members who have made my job fun—I will miss wandering over for my chats with the ladies from Shadowbox. Leslie Fournier, the Matriarch of the Festival of Banners, who trusted me to coordinate the festival this year and who has taught me how to get the job done.

My former summer students Kate and Michelle and our newest student Alisha who were truly the best summer students a girl could ask for and the only people who could help me pull off operation TB. All of the Katimavik Volunteers, Co-op students, Alex and Sherri Lee and colleagues through Youth Quest who contributed their skills and unique talents towards keeping OMAH afloat.

Of course, I need to thank Lynda Whiston, OMAH's current Collections Manager for being the amazing lady that she is. Always listening to my lunch time rants political or otherwise. And finally, last but certainly not least, Gloria Taylor, Director/Curator, true friend, teacher, and great boss who made my last two years here incredibly entertaining. Without her confidence in me I wouldn't have been able to accomplish even half of my job. She is my partner in laughter and Japanese food and I will never forget her.

I humbly leave Orillia and my job at OMAH knowing that I learned a great deal, and made some amazing friends. THANK YOU ALL!

HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday—Saturday

10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Orillia Museum of
Art & History

30 Peter St. South
Orillia, Ontario L3V 5A9

Tel: 705-326-2159

Fax: 705-326-7828

Email: info@orilliamuseum.org

Current & Upcoming Exhibits

All-Ontario Open Juried Art Exhibition

June 5 to August 28

On June 5th, the All-Ontario Open Juried Art Exhibition opened in the main gallery. This year's theme, Landscapes, invited a range of interpretations including both rural and urban scenes, high realism and abstraction.

The opening, also on June 5th, saw more than 65 visitors and the presentation of two prizes. The Orillia Museum of Art & History Premiere Art Award was presented to Kim Campbell by chairman Don Ross for her piece, 'Exile', and the Lakehead University Award of Excellence was awarded to John Ross for his piece 'Sea to Sky' by the Dean of Orillia's campus, Dr. Kim Feddersen.

Be sure to come in and see these beautiful pieces and cast your vote for the People's Choice Award, sponsored by Jack & Maddy A Kid's Store. All votes will be

From Our Group of Seven Collection

June 5 to August 28

Back by popular demand, our Community Art Wall is currently featuring a selection of seven beautiful pieces from our very own Group of Seven Collection. Works by A.J. Casson, Lawren Harris, F.H. Varley, J.E.H. MacDonald, Franklin Carmichael, and A.Y. Jackson are currently displayed.

Don't miss this chance to view a part of history through the brushstrokes of these Canadian icons.

Uncommon Threads: Recent Works from the Huronia Handweavers

August 31 to October 30

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 9th, 2010 from 6 to 8 p.m.

For the past 33 years, the Huronia Handweavers have pursued the goals of education, creative development and public awareness of their craft that have been the hallmarks of guilds throughout history. Members range in experience from novice to Master Weaver status, and come from all parts of Simcoe County. The upcoming show, their first at O.M.A.H., will showcase the broad range of talent and creativity within this dynamic group.

Join us on Thursday September 9th from 6 to 8 p.m. for an opening reception to celebrate this unique exhibit.

Farewell!

-by Gloria Taylor

It is my painful duty to say good bye, on behalf of OMAH, to Katie Calcaterra. For those who know her, you will realize how much we will miss her drive for knowledge, her ability to multi-task, her unending need to learn and her love of her job and the community she worked for. Those who never met Katie can enjoy her many accomplishments when they book a first-rate school program or enjoy a community event that she was involved in creating and improving.

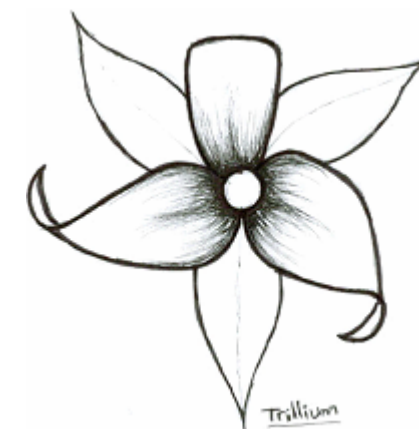
I don't know what I would have done without Katie's unselfish and exemplary training and I am yet to know what I will do without her. I know that she will be successful at whatever she chooses to concentrate on. Best wishes Katie, you will be sincerely missed.



Katie Calcaterra pictured with former chairman Will Davis (left) and current chairman Don Ross (right).

Drawing by Jessica MacKinnon

Katimavik Volunteer



The Katimavik Connection

-by Melissa Hankinson

9 Months Away From Home

My Katimavik experience has been full of numbers. Gone for 9 months. Flights leaving at 7:00am. Arriving at 4:00am. Living with 12 people in one house. 7 girls in one bedroom. 3 different communities, for 3 months each. It all seems so simple when you look at it like that, it all seems so plain. In reality, although Katimavik is only a short amount of time in all of our lives – it seems like it has been forever. I have learned so much, and I have experienced so many things. I have been a chef, a baker, a teacher, a caretaker, a writer, an artist, a performer, a hunter, a voyageur, a fighter, a psychiatrist, an editor, a stunt person, a gymnast, a dog sled driver, an environmentalist, a vegetarian, a lover, a best friend, a sister, a photographer, and so many more things. I have been broken hearted, I have fallen in love.

Now, during the last days of the program we are all looking towards our futures. But the countdown is getting uncomfortably close, and none of us want to say goodbye to the family that we have found in each other. But we have to part ways, and I'm sure that we will all go and do great things.

Thank you to the city of Orillia for making our last few months of Katimavik great ones. Thank you to all the amazing billet families for taking us in and showing us a great time. And last but not least, thank you to all the work partners for giving us great learning experiences.

Links that Span the Centuries

-by Lynda Whiston

Silk parasols and voluminous bathing dresses, stereoscopes and whalebone stays, exquisite lace gowns and soft kid gloves. These nostalgic remnants of a time long past are just a few of the more than 30 items recently donated to OMAH's collection by long time Orillia resident Dora (Vick) Noy.

Mrs. Noy, 98, is the daughter of Herbert and Gretchen Vick and granddaughter of George Vick. In the late 1800's, George Vick and Sons started a large roller mill operation on Orillia's waterfront. In addition, the Vick family owned a bakery on Mississaga Street in the building that today houses Mariposa Market. It is here at the bakery, and at the Vick home (formerly located on the Barrie Road just west of Memorial Avenue), that Dora Vick Noy holds some of her fondest memories.

I was privileged to hear some of her reminiscences on a recent visit with the delightful Mrs. Noy. She recounted laughing at the jokes of Mr. Wismer the baker, the bread deliveries made by horse and cart, and the fact that her grandparents used to live above the bakery. Vick's bread was so good Mrs. Noy asserts that one year they had requests for bread from as far away as Florida!

At the Vick family home, Dora lived with her parents and her grandmother Vick. Grandmother Vick did not trust electricity, so the home was lit with oil lamps until the matriarch passed away in the 1920's. The house did have plumbing though. However, Dora remembers one occasion when workmen who were doing some building on their property kept tracking through the house to use the bathroom. Grandmother Vick did not approve, and she promptly ordered an outhouse from the Eaton Lumber Company to be erected on the property for the use of the workmen.

Father came home for lunch with the horse and wagon. Following lunch, he would take a nap before returning to work. The Vicks had a washerwoman, who Dora loved to watch. Indeed, the young Dora declared she wanted to be a washerwoman when she grew up! Instead, she studied modern languages at the University of Toronto. Dora recalls sitting behind Stephen Leacock at the Anglican Church on Sundays and remembers that her dad once bought a basket of peas from Mr. Leacock. She remembers her father being a member of the Red Tam Hunt Club and that during prohibition the members of the Hunt Club were thankful that there were doctors in the club who could prescribe whiskey for medicinal purposes – a most essential provision when men got together! On other occasions, gentlemen visitors to the house would be invited “down cellar” to have a nip of whiskey.

Mrs. Noy had many more stories to tell, but space is limited. Suffice it to say that it is fortuitous to have not only the artifacts themselves, but also the stories that go with them. Without the living history of Mrs. Noy, we might never have known that the frothy lace and net dress was Dora's very own wedding gown, that the parasols belonged to “Aunt Emma Vick,” and the green taffeta skirt belonged to “Aunt Dora Arends.” And, my personal favourite, the turn of the century bathing dress, belonged to Dora's mother, Gretchen. Thank you, Dora Noy for the wonderful gifts for our collection and most especially for the conversation.



Bathing Dress

Exhibition Schedule & Upcoming Events

500 Million Years of Prehistory

History Gallery
Permanent Exhibit

All-Ontario Open Juried Art Exhibition

June 5 - August 28
Main Gallery

From Our Group of Seven Collection

June 5 - August 28
Community Art Wall

Classic Car Show

Saturday, August 14
Come and visit us and our OTACO display in front of the museum!

Starry Night Gallery & Studio Tour

Saturday, August 21
7-11 p.m.

Uncommon Threads: Recent Works from the Huronia

Handweavers
August 31 - October 31
Main Gallery

Opening Reception:
Thursday September 9,
6-8 p.m.

Starry Night Gallery & Studio Tour

August 21, 2010

The 6th Annual Starry Night Gallery & Studio Tour will take place on August 21, 2010 from 7:00-11:00 p.m.

This year promises to be amazing, with 13 venues including studios and galleries, along with 6 restaurants featuring work by local and regional artists and serving up a taste from their creative kitchens.

Passports and maps are available at participating venues.

Orillia Museum of Art & History	Zephyr Art Gallery
Tiffin's Creative Centre	Peter Street Fine Arts
Richard Vandermeer Studio/Gallery	Apple Annie's
Shadowbox Art & Framing	Brewery Bay
Xavier Fernandes Studio	Custom Frameworks
Tre Sorelle	Ecocentric
Sixteen Front Casual Fine Dining	Aji Sushi
Orillia & District Art Council	Magpie Beads
Era 67	Eclectic Monkey
Filou Bistro (Orillia Fine Arts Association)	

Programs Update — by Kate Zubczyk

It's July and Summer is in full swing! Once again, we are excited to offer art day camps, but please note that this year we will be running the camps on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please see the enclosed brochure for a detailed description of each camp's activities, dates, and fees.

Starry Night will take place on Saturday, August 21 from 7 to 11 p.m. and O.M.A.H. will be showcasing a number of impressive works. The main gallery will be showing the All-Ontario Open Juried Art Exhibition, and the Community Art Wall will feature a selection of Group of Seven works from our own collection.

Additionally, we are very pleased to have an all-star cast of artists featured in the education room including: local stone sculptor Karen Brodie, mixed media sculptor Cassie McLaughlin Wollen from Pennsylvania, fine stone sculptor Glen Wilson from Oregon, world famous fine stone sculptor Sandy Cline, local painter Colleen Mills and local sculptor Marg Gurr. Don't miss this opportunity to view such a diverse collection of art under one roof!

Thank You to Donors

OMAH would like to thank the following people who have donated money between May 2009 and April 2010. We sincerely appreciate your contributions.

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Our Two Cents Worth—From the History Committee

-by Qennefer Browne

OMAH's Historical Section wound up its 2009-2010 year with Chair Mary Elizabeth Mick's report to the Annual Meeting - a tally of successful events and much-appreciated volunteer effort from many members.

We presented the usual popular History Speaker Series evenings, held in the large downstairs auditorium at St. Paul's United Church from November to May. These are educational and entertaining free events, open to all OMAH members and the public. Wally Bremner's subcommittee has already selected, from many choices considered, an enticing line-up for next season.

Are you an aspiring writer? Here is an opportunity for you to be involved in our publicity - we currently have two volunteer writers, Jim Watt and Fayne Bullen, who provide the newspaper with reviews of these evenings, but we need a third writer to help with advance announcements and to cover the occasional out of town absence of Jim and Fayne.

Our traditional January celebration of the historical legacy of Sir John A. Macdonald, the Gala dinner with celebrity guest speaker, was as always a sell-out this year and allowed the Historical Committee to contribute \$4,000.00 to the Museum's budget. The Dinner subcommittee has already booked next January's speaker and you will hear more of this in September.

Our other annual guest speaker event, the Carmichael Canadian Art Lecture, actually happened twice in the past season! The 2009 talk was held in October instead of the usual date in May (which coincides with the birth date of Franklin Carmichael, Orillia's Group of Seven member). The guest lecturer, Dr. Kirk Wipper, spoke of "The View from the Canoe", celebrating this essential Canadian watercraft and its aspect as a vehicle for artists who portrayed the Canadian wilderness. The 2010 speaker, in May, was Art Gallery of Hamilton Curator Tobi Bruce, who introduced a fascinated audience to expatriate Canadian artists in 19th-century Paris at the dawn of the Impressionist era.

Both Carmichael Lectures were held at

Swanmore Hall, a beloved venue for such events as well as for the annual end-of-season Potluck supper and Sing-along which is a fine old tradition going back to the days of the Orillia Historical Society. This June we had to hold it at St. Paul's as the Leacock Museum is negotiating a new catering contract for use of Swanmore - but there are some indications that we may be able to book Swanmore in the future for Historical socials and lectures.

Kay-Anne Broger served as our representative on the Museum's Excursions Committee, and her contribution was to organize a day-trip to Peterborough to the Canadian Canoe Museum and other attractions. This will be the sixth year our members have arranged interesting excursions to explore art and history around South-Central Ontario. Your participation in planning such events would be very welcome - please contact the Museum to be put in touch with coordinators.

Have you noticed the History Book table at our Speaker Evenings? It is always a great source of excellent, affordable reading, and welcomes your book donations so as to recycle good historical information. Mary Elizabeth and Omer Mick are its management team, and proceeds go to support the Museum's operations. History Committee member Dan Byers represents the Historical section on the OMAH Board of Directors, and also liaises with the Simcoe County Historical Association. Social Chair Pat Gill, along with a large number of hospitable helpers, provides light refreshments at Speaker Evenings, and organizes our traditional Christmas reception in December as well as the June Potluck social.

Two weeks ago the Museum community lost an important member with the death of Dr. James Angus, who was the last chair of the Orillia Historical Society before it amalgamated with the Sir Sam Steele Art Gallery. Jim was the architect of the terms of reference for our new collaborative identity - and, ten years later, perhaps the coming season will provide an opportunity for the Historical members to refresh our vision of best contribution to the Museum's identity in Orillia