

Notable Works: Orillia Public Library Art Collection

Main Floor

Next to elevator

Elizabeth Wyn Wood (1903-1966)

Bronze bust of Charles Harold Hale

Gifted to the library in 1975 by Miss Dorothy Hale

Charles H. Hale (1874 – 1963): Publisher of the Orillia Packet (founded by his father and uncle), Hale was an esteemed council member and served on the first Orillia Water, Light and Power Commission. Under Hale's leadership, the Orillia Power Scheme of 1898 lit up Orillia before Ontario Hydro became anywhere near current. Hale played a large role in bringing the Champlain monument to Orillia and he introduced daylight savings time to the city.



Mezzanine

Top of first flight of stairs to Mezzanine

Ada Mildred Bruce Torrance (1903-1982)

Camp Scene at Night, watercolour and Ink

Ada Torrance graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design University (Ontario College of Art) in the 1920's and taught in Toronto schools for eight years. She moved to Orillia in 1945 where she continued to work in a variety of media including watercolours, oils and printmaking but was best known for her quilt designs.

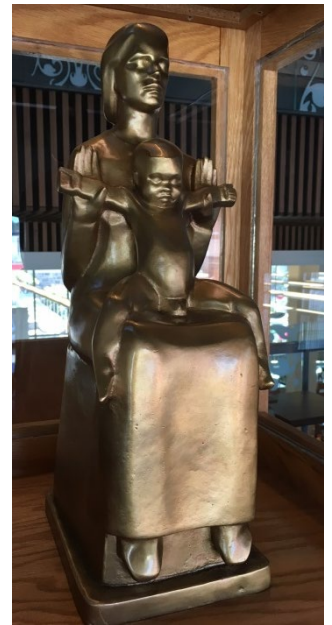


Elizabeth Wyn Wood (1903-1966)

Regeneration: Mother and Son, bronze, 1938

Bust of Stephen Leacock, dark patinated bronze, 1949

Elizabeth Wyn Wood was born in Orillia, and attended the Ontario College of Art where she studied under Group of Seven artists Arthur Lismer and J.E.H. MacDonald, and sculptor Emanuel Hahn. Wyn Wood also attended the Art Students' League in New York where she studied stone carving. Her many awards include 10 scholarships while she was at OCA and the Governor General's Medal in 1924. Her work is represented in the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. Among her more famous works are the Simcoe monument at Niagara-on-the-Lake, fountains at Niagara Falls, and bas relief murals at Ryerson University. In 1964 Wyn Wood modelled the first Canadian medal to the memory of the late President Kennedy. She designed her own home in Willowdale with a studio containing glass domes in the 20 foot high ceiling.



Elizabeth Wyn Wood made a significant contribution to Canada's culture, through her modernist interpretation of the Canadian landscape in sculpture. Art critic Alan Jarvis once said that her "attempts to do in stone what the Group of Seven had done on canvas have gone shamefully unrecognized." In 1926 she married sculptor Emanuel Hahn.

Stephen P. H. Butler Leacock (1869 -1944) was a Canadian teacher, political scientist, writer, and humorist. Between the years 1915 and 1925, he was the best-known English-speaking humorist in the world. He is known for his light humour along with criticisms of people's follies.

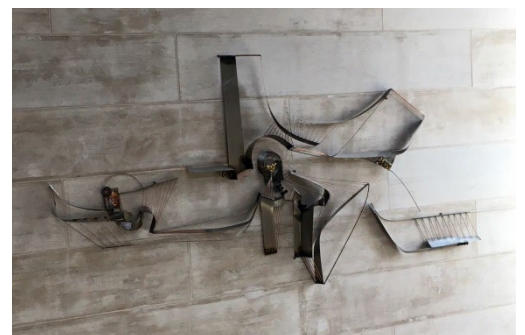
During the summer months, Leacock lived at Old Brewery Bay, his summer estate in Orillia, across Lake Simcoe from where he was raised and also bordering Lake Couchiching. A working farm, Old Brewery Bay is now a museum and National Historic Site of Canada. Gossip provided by the local barber, Jefferson Short, provided Leacock with the material which would become *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town* (1912), set in the thinly-disguised Mariposa.



Hilary Clark Cole

Flight, welded steel, 1973

Canadian sculptor **Hilary Clark Cole** was born in Victoria, British Columbia, and is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design. She has lived and worked professionally in Muskoka since 1971. *Flight*, was gifted to the Orillia Public Library as a thank you after Cole displayed many of her pieces at the library. As a young artist, Cole would frequently visit Francoz Metal in Orillia to pick up scraps of steel, copper and brass to reuse for her sculptures. This sculpture was made from materials collected at Francoz Metal.



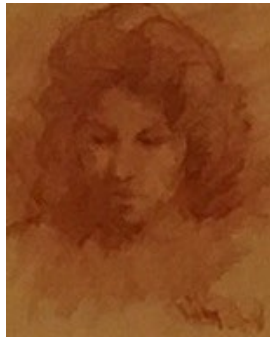
Arthur Shilling (1940-1986)

Portrait of Three Sisters, oil on canvas (painting of the artists' sisters)

Head of a Woman, conte drawing

Landscape with Tree Trunk, oil on canvas board

Note: Totem Pole with Indian Surmount and Totem Pole with Thunderbird Surmount in Children's Department, Polychrome wood carvings, Purchased in 1960



Rama-born son of Ojibway parents, **Arthur Shilling** was placed at the Mohawk Institute Residential School, where he began sketching as a means of coping. Shilling attended the Ontario College of Art and he won national acclaim at his first solo show in Ottawa in 1967. Using oil on canvas, he depicted life on the Rama Reserve, where he built an art gallery to encourage local talent.

In 1983 Shilling was one of 7 Canadian artists invited by Governor General Edward Schreyer to show at Rideau Hall, Ottawa. His paintings are in many corporate and private collections throughout North America. His life is documented in the film *The Beauty of My People* (NFB, 1978).

Shilling's book *The Ojibway Dream* (1986) was published posthumously by Tundra Press, Montréal (several copies available at OPL). In *Ojibway Dream*, Shilling wrote:

"Time is so precious. I'm under constant pressure from within. Like a volcano, grumbling and rumbling continually....I don't close my eyes except when I sleep, and then there are dreams, color again."

Franklin H Carmichael (1890-1945)

A Northern Village, oil on canvas, 1926

Franklin H Carmichael was born in Orillia, Ontario. He worked for his father who was a carriage maker and received a good part of his early training in design from him. Carmichael's interest in art found early expression, and he took lessons from the Rev. Canon Greene.

In 1920, along with Harris, Jackson, Johnston, Lismer, MacDonald and Varley; he co-founded the **Group of Seven**. As an organization of self-proclaimed modern artists, in addition to Tom Thomson, Emily Carr and David Milne, the Group of Seven were the most important Canadian artists of the first decades of the twentieth century.



In 1929 Franklin Carmichael gifted "A Northern Village" to the Women's Canadian Club of Orillia who generously exhibited this painting at the Orillia Public Library so that the public could view it freely. It is now part of the permanent collection of the Orillia Public Library.

Rev. Canon RWE Greene (1848-1934)

Posing Blacker's Shop, watercolour and gouache, 1926

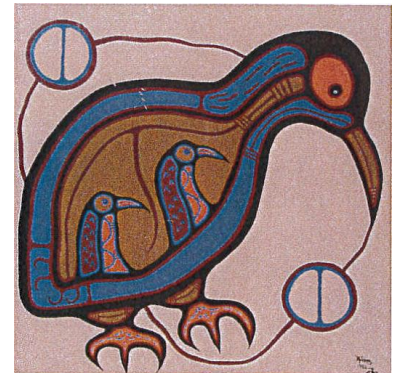
Rev. Greene was rector of St. James Church in Orillia from 1888 to 1911, and thereafter in Islington. He studied painting under famous German/Canadian artist Otto Jacobi. Rev. Greene painted in oils and watercolours. He was the founder of the Orillia Sketch Club and he instituted several art exhibitions at the Orillia Fall Fair. Greene taught a whole generation of young artists in Orillia, including Franklin Carmichael and Ada Greenland Owens. Rev. Greene is said to be the inspiration for "Reverend Mr. Drone" in Stephen Leacock's Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town.



Roy Thomas (1949-)

Birds, acrylic on paper, 1982

Ojibway artist **Roy Thomas** was born on a trap line near Caramat and grew up on the Longlac Reserve at Pacquashun, Ontario. He was raised by his grandparents who taught him how to be Anishnabe (a good being) through stories that honour the Earth and the Spirit of the Creator. It was his grandmother especially who encouraged him to draw. To acknowledge her contribution to his life and her continued presence in his mind, Roy Thomas signs his paintings with a small crow, the name she gave him.



Jean Soucy (1915-2003)

Composition, acrylic on canvas

Gift of the Province of Ontario, Centennial Art Collection, 1970

Jean Soucy was born in Isle-Verte, Quebec; studied in Quebec and Paris. He was a teacher of design and art history and is represented in the collection of the National Gallery of Canada. When Soucy was appointed director of the Musée du Québec in 1967, he decided to cancel a retrospective devoted to his works that had been programmed by his predecessor. For six years, he ceased to paint and refused to present his works in the public space. In 2016, after a half-century of dormancy and secrecy, 60 Soucy works (including documents and artifacts) were reunited in a retrospective exhibition: *Jean Soucy-- Clandestine Painter*.



Saul Williams (b. 1954)

Baby Thunderbirds, silkscreen, numbered 1/25

Saul Williams is a painter and graphic artist who was born in North Caribou Lake, Ontario, of the Little Crane clan. As a child, Williams was always interested in pictures and began drawing as soon as he got his hands on a pencil and paper. He attributes much of his creative ability to his uncle, Mayo Quequish who was always drawing and creating cardboard replicas of airplanes and other objects seen in Ontario's far north.

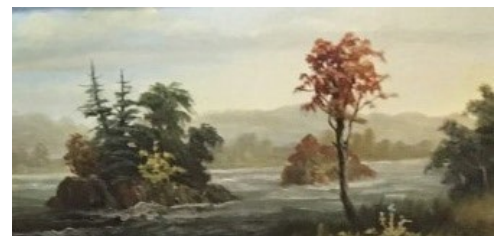


Williams' style is known as Woodland Art, which is identified by black outlined figures, x-ray perspectives, vivid colours that are compartmentalized similar to stained glass, and usually a solid color background. Williams' motivation for painting is to share knowledge and tradition with all people. He sees himself as a record keeper of his people's beliefs and traditions. Williams' vibrant paintings are held in the McMichael Gallery in Kleinberg and the Woodland Indian Cultural Education Centre in Brantford, Ontario; the Royal Ontario Museum, the New College in Toronto as well as many private collections in North America.

2nd Floor Fireplace Lounge

Henry Needham Shrapnel (1812-1896)

Islands and Trees, Orkney Bay, oil on board



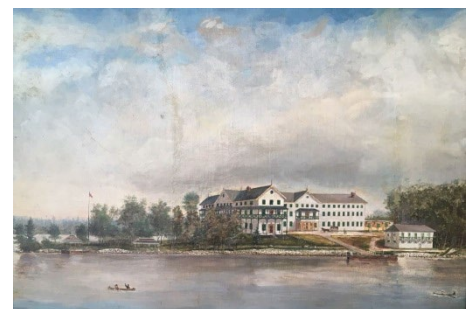
Henry Needham Scrope Shrapnel was the son of British General Henry Shrapnel, military careerist and weapons inventor, most notable invention: the case shot shell. Henry Shrapnel immigrated to Canada after retiring from military service and settled in Orillia in 1870. He was a captain in the 3rd dragoon guards, and was barrack-master in Ireland, Bermuda, Halifax, and Montreal. He and his wife, Louisa Sarah Jonsiffe, had 15 children. The eldest was Edward Scrope Shrapnel.

Edward Scrope Shrapnel (1845-1920)

Couchiching Hotel, oil on board, 1877

View on Lake Couchiching, oil on canvas, 1898

Edward Shrapnel was born in England. In his mid-teens he immigrated to Canada with his father, Henry N.S. Shrapnel and settled in Orillia at their newly built home on Borland Street. It was here that his talents as an artist were to take shape. A prolific artist, Shrapnel's marine pictures became collection pieces. He was one of the earlier Canadian painters of landscapes and genre scenes. Landscapes of the Muskoka region with animals or native Indians were his specialised subjects. Shrapnel stayed in Orillia for some twenty years before moving to teach at the Ontario Ladies College in Whitby, Ontario. In 1889 he moved to Victoria where he was to



spend the remaining 31 years of his life. He was the President of Victoria's earliest Art Association for some 11 years.

Gordon Yearsley

Arctic Landscape, oil on canvas

Gordon Yearsley was a graduate and teacher at the Ontario College of Art. He was hired by Father Andre Steinmann in 1961 to assist Povungnituk artists in an “experimental graphics workshop.” He travelled to Cape Dorset with two of his printmakers to teach/share the art of printmaking. Yearsley was the first print advisory to the Povungnituk printmaking studio. Povungnituk is in Nunavik in the region of Northern Quebec.



Patricia Naomi Parsons Fulford (1935-)

Totemic Sculpture # 7, polychrome wood, 1970

Gift of the Province of Ontario (Centennial Art Collection)

Patricia Fulford was born in Toronto in 1935 and studied at the Ontario College of Art. In 1957 she won a travelling scholarship and spent the next three years at the Edinburgh College of Art. On another travelling scholarship, in 1959, she visited France and Italy, then for three years taught at the Ontario College of Art. She has taken part in exhibitions in Canada, Scotland and Australia. Patricia Fulford has had several commissions from churches.



Capt. J. B. Marston

Pathway, Cedar Island, oil on board

Inscribed on the reverse “Scene on the Shore to Lake “

Captain J. B. Marston served during the Crimean War in the 10th Regiment. He was a resident of Orillia for many years and built the first permanent residence on Cedar Island. He was a columnist for the Packet. The column, titled *Post Pourri*, was printed under the pseudonym “panoptes”.



wall close to YA

James Wilson Morrice (1865-1924)

The Circus at Concarneau, reproduction, 1905

original: oil on canvas at the National Gallery of Canada

James Wilson Morrice was one of the earliest Canadian modernist painters and the first Canadian to achieve widespread acceptance abroad. Born of a wealthy and strictly Presbyterian merchant family, he showed an early interest in painting. His father wanted him to enter law and, after studying at the University of Toronto he was called to the Ontario Bar, but never practised. He began his studies at the Académie Julian in Paris in 1890 but soon sought individual masters, first the Barbizon painter Henri Harpignies, then the American painter James McNeill Whistler. But it was in Venice, when he visited with Maurice Cullen in 1896, that the peculiar light effects changed his perception and set him on his course as a painter.



2nd Floor: Elevator and right of the IS workroom door

Sydney March (1876–1968)

Bronze bust of Robert Curran, 1925 – Gift of the Curran Family

Sydney March was a prolific artist, whose primary focus was portrait busts and other sculptures of British royalty and contemporary figures, as well as war memorials. One of eight artists in his family, he and his siblings completed the National War Memorial of Canada after the death of their brother Vernon March in 1930.

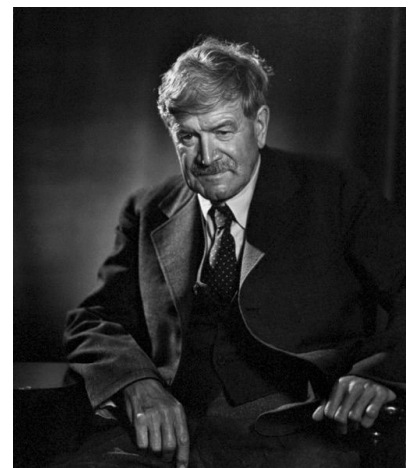
Robert Curran, who grew up in Orillia, won three straight amateur North American rowing titles in the late 1800s, a time when the sport was the most high profile in the world. He was one of the athletes who helped earned Orillia the moniker "city of champions." Curran was a seven times mayor of Orillia and editor of a weekly newspaper called the 'Newsletter' founded by his father John Curran.



Yousuf Karsh (1908-2002)

Portrait of Stephen Leacock Seated, gelatin silver print photograph

Yousuf Karsh immigrated to Canada in 1924 as an Armenian refugee. He lived/studied with his uncle George Nakashian, a portrait photographer in Sherbrooke, Quebec, before apprenticing in Boston with the celebrity portrait photographer John H. Garo. The strategic contrast of light and dark that marks Karsh's imagery is rooted in his work with Garo.



Yousuf Karsh's photographic portraits have come to represent the public images of major international figures of politics, science, and culture in the twentieth century. The portraits have been displayed in public galleries and circulated widely in magazines. Karsh's 1941 portrait of Winston Churchill, for example, which appeared on the cover of Life magazine, stands as the definitive portrayal of Churchill's character.

Will Barnett (b.1911 – 2012)

Blue Robe, Aquatint, 1971

Signed, titled and inscribed “artist’s proof”

Will Barnett knew by the age of ten that he wanted to be an artist. As a student, he studied with Philip Leslie Hale at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and viewed first-hand John Singer Sargent at work on the murals of the Boston Public Library. In 1930, Barnett studied at the Art Students League of New York, beginning his long association with the school (as student and then teacher). Here he concentrated on painting as well as printmaking, and, in 1936, he became the official printer for the Art Students League. Barnett's artistic output spans eighty years (he lived to be 101). Few artists, other than Picasso or Monet, can claim such a long continuous period of inspired art making, nor the logical progression of moving through artistic phases: in the 1930s he was a social realist, in the 1940s a Modernist, in the 1950s an Abstract Expressionist and in the 1960s and onward he settled on a representational minimalism honed from the refinement of his earlier explorations. *Blue Robe* is an example of that style.



Bridge to Local History

Walk all the way around and through the Quiet Zone, peering into the study spaces to see more pieces by mostly local practicing artists. Head to Local History, stopping on the bridge to look down into café area at:

Guy Montpetit (b.1938)

Presence No. 1, oil on canvas, signed and indistinctly dated '68

Gift of the Province of Ontario (Centennial art program, 1970)

Painter and muralist **Guy Montpetit** obtained an art degree from the École des Beaux-Arts de Montréal in 1961 and studied for two years in Paris. He received a diploma for teaching with a specialization in plastic arts, and obtained a Quebec scholarship for a study trip to Europe where he studied communication techniques with mute children.

Guy Montpetit is known for whimsical, high-color field designs with acrylic and gouache. He has mainly focused on murals, the integration of art and architecture, and social involvement such as developing an art teaching method for hearing-impaired children. Montpetit has also created three-dimensional pieces and mural paintings including a commission for Maison Radio Canada in Montreal. His work was chosen to be part of *Art in the Metro* -- his mural is located at the Assomption Station of the Montreal Metro system.



Local History Room

Edward (Ted) Lord

Musical Barn at Eady, Woodblock, 1973

Stephen Leacock Home, linocut, 1973

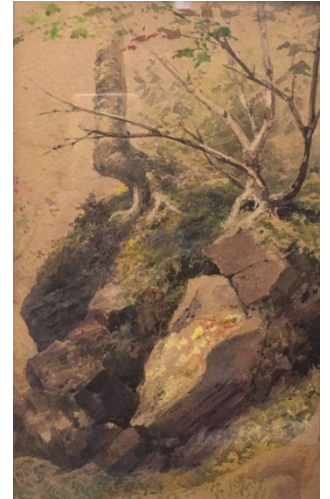


Edward (Ted) Lord was a graduate of the Ontario College of Art which he attended at the same time as Ada Torrance in the 1920's. "Ted" Lord moved his studio from Toronto to Waubesa in 1968. His work consisted of landscapes, linoleum cuts, abstract and batik.

Lucius Richard O'Brien (1832 – 1900)

Untitled Landscape, watercolour

Lucius O'Brien was born in Shanty Bay in 1832, educated at Upper Canada College, served as reeve of Orillia Township. In 1866, he opened a general store at the corner of Peter and Coldwater. After marrying a local woman in 1860, he moved to Toronto in 1868. O'Brien's talents with watercolours overcame his other interests and he was hired by the federal government to do several paintings of the Rocky Mountains in an effort to raise money for the fledgling Canadian Pacific Railroad. He served as president of the Canadian Academy of Art for ten years.



O'Brien had many artistic successes including being responsible for illustrating many of the drawings in "Picturesque Canada" described as the most ambitious publishing project of the time. O'Brien was chosen to be art editor for the project as well. He is a member of the Orillia Hall of Fame.

Ada Greenland Owens (1884 -1950)

Hollyhocks at the Hermitage, oil on canvas on board

Ada Greenland Owens was born in Orillia, the family home standing on the South-east corner of Nottawasaga and Albert. Her interest in art was encouraged by Rev. R. W. E. Greene, rector of St. James Parish. Later she studied with F. McGillivray Knowles, R.C.A. in Toronto. From 1905 to the early 1920s she worked in Orillia as a professional artist and taught drawing and painting classes. Her paintings were primarily landscapes. The colors are soft and muted; the atmosphere quiet and pastoral, the way Canadian painting was before the Group of Seven. She also designed and executed illuminated addresses. Two were made for the Town of Orillia and were presented to Baron Byng of Vimy, and Lord Tweedsmuir, when they visited this town.



Edward Scrope Shrapnel (1845-1920)

Still life with Rabbit and Pheasants, oil on canvas, 1874

Notes about the artist on page 5



Franklin H. Carmichael (1890-1945)

La Cloche Mountains, watercolour

Gift of Orillia Women's Canadian Club, 1968

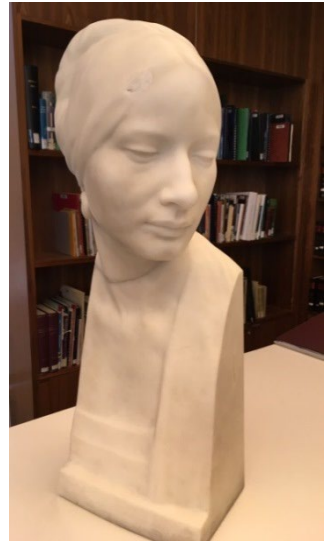
Notes about Franklin H. Carmichael on page 3



Emanuel Hahn (1881 – 1957)

Bust of Elizabeth Wyn Wood, Carrara marble, 1926

Emanuel Hahn was a renowned artist, sculptor and designer of coins and stamps. Born in Germany, Hahn came to Canada in 1888 and was educated at the Central Ontario School of Art and Design. He retired from his position as the head of department of sculpture at the Ontario College of Art in 1951. Among his more famous works are the memorials to Edward Hanlan, the World Single Scull Champion from 1880 – 1884. This sculpture is located on Hanlan's point, Toronto Island (originally located at CNE). Hahn's sculpture of Sir Adam Beck stands on University Avenue and Queen Street in Toronto. There are war memorials in St. Lambert, Quebec and Lindsay, Ontario. He is represented by the National Gallery of Art. The Canadian jubilee dollar of 1935 was designed by Emanuel Hahn as well as stamps issued in 1952 and 1953. He married sculptor Elizabeth Wyn Wood in 1926.



Yousuf Karsh (1908-2002)

Portrait of Stephen Leacock with hat, Gelatin silver print, Photograph, 1941

Notes about Yousuf Karsh on page 7

