

Manly E. MacDonald Spring Update 2009

The winter months have been a busy time with the manuscript for Interpreter of Old Ontario. Over two hundred replies from interested parties have trickled in over that time. Information about the MacDonald family, anecdotes and historical connections have been recorded and woven into the text. One recollection, told over and over again by MacDonald at painting demonstrations was concerning a farmer who had watched him painting his team of horses. The farmer finally wandered over and said, "I've got son whose not very bright. Maybe he could do this."

Duncan and Beverley MacDonald keep in regular contact and send important information on request. Recently they forwarded photo files on Manly MacDonald's pastel portraits. One pastel is of the young Beverley that Duncan pinned over his bed while in the army.

The photo shoot list just keeps getting better and better as we uncover paintings with provenance. Choosing "the" one for the cover of the book will be very difficult!

Although we are not taking direct orders for books from interested individuals and groups, the list keeps getting longer anyway. This is a thankful vote of confidence. We were particularly pleased to receive a request for 3 copies from the Ontario College of Art & Design, MacDonald's training ground.

On another front, the freelance writing continues. The Upper Canadian just published my article on Carnival Glass. Kingston Life had me write an article on Balleycanoe, north of Maitland, Ontario. Current projects include two features in and around Tammworth for Harrowsmith magazine. In April we will be in Brittany, France. While there I will be writing an article on Old Quimper pottery.

Kingston Interiors has just finished a photo shoot here at Riverview for a feature in their April issue. The article will help promote the Lennox & Addington County Seniors Outreach Services who will feature Riverview in its June 6th Tour of Homes. (Contact 613-354-6668 for tickets).

While 2010 seems a long way off for the publications and launch of the book, we feel the time spent is well worth it for the product will be even better and the economy much rosier.

Thank you for your patience and correspondence. Please continue to keep in touch!

Regards,

Charles