economic and political upheavals of the period have, however, overshadowed equally important developments in Canadian art.

"The romantic landscape tradition defined by the Group of Seven in the Twenties continued to be influential and popular throughout the decade; but younger artists, more concerned with their immediate urban and social environment, rejected the northern journey. Confronted by economic and political realities forced upon them by the Depression, many artists felt the need to re-evaluate the rôle of the arts in society. At the same time there developed an increasing concern for the formal qualities of painting, especially in Montreal, where the groundwork was laid for the rapid development of the Contemporary Arts Society in the '40s.

"*Canadian Painting in the Thirties* traces these developments in painting in Canada through the work of such artists as A.Y. Jackson, Emily Carr, David Milne, John Lyman, André Biéler, and Goodridge Roberts – from the nationalist, Toronto-based Group of Seven to the internationalist Contemporary Arts Society in Montreal."

Canadian Press

Margaret Trudeau, wife of the Prime Minister, discusses J.W.G. Macdonald's The Black Tusk *with her husband at the opening of* Canadian Painting in the Thirties, *an exhibition at the National Gallery of Canada.*

New neuroscience centre at Toronto University

The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Toronto is to establish a centre for the study of nervous disease in the Toronto Western Hospital. Unlike most of the work that has been undertaken in Toronto in this field to date, the emphasis will be on biochemistry, immunology and cell biology, where notable advances have recently been achieved in the understanding of some nervous conditions in non-human primates.

Special priority will be given to the understanding and control of multiple sclerosis, polyneuritis and other so-called de-myelinating diseases. Myelin is a fat-like substance that forms a major component of the sheath that surrounds and insulates nerve fibres.

When some pathological condition causes the myelin sheath to deteriorate, "short circuits" occur and communication is interrupted between the brain and muscles and such organs as the eyes. Now that polyomyelitis has been controlled by vaccines, these diseases are the major crippling diseases of man.

Work at the new centre, which will occupy about 6,000 net square feet of assignable laboratory space soon to be made ready by the Toronto Western Hospital, will be financed initially by the proceeds of a gift, made to the University of Toronto by the late Stuart B. Playfair. It will be known as the Playfair Neuroscience Centre.

The first director of the centre will be Dr. Edwin H. Eylar, a biochemist and neuroscientist, who was till recently director of the Department of Experimental Biology of the Merck Institute in New Jersey and is now professor in the Medical University of South Carolina.

Dr. Eylar has for some years been collaborating with Dr. William Sheremata of Montreal and others on the study of an experimental form of allergic encephalomyelitis in monkeys that has many points of resemblance to multiple sclerosis in humans. Both seem to result when the body's own defence mechanisms start attacking the myelin sheaths of nerves, causing a progressively more serious interference with nerve communication between the brain and the rest of the body.

There is no cure for multiple sclerosis.

Dr. Eylar and his collaborators had demonstrated as far back as 1972 that the experimental condition in monkeys could be cured by an injection of certain protein from the peripheral nervous system, even when the disease had reached an advanced stage and the animal was near death.

There were important differences, however, between the experimental disease, as induced in monkeys, and the natural condition in humans. In monkeys, for example, the disease is quickly fatal; in humans, it may run its course for many years, with periodical remissions and relapses.

In 1974, Dr. Eylar, Dr. Sheremata and their colleagues, who had been studying the diseases at the molecular level, reported their discovery of striking resemblances in the immunological mechanisms that were at work in both the experimental condition in monkeys and in the human disease. They were also able to identify and synthesize the disease-causing sites in both monkeys and humans.

When neurologists from many parts of the world gathered in New Jersey last summer to review the work there was unanimous agreement that the new discoveries were of great significance and that more intense study should be made of the disease in humans.