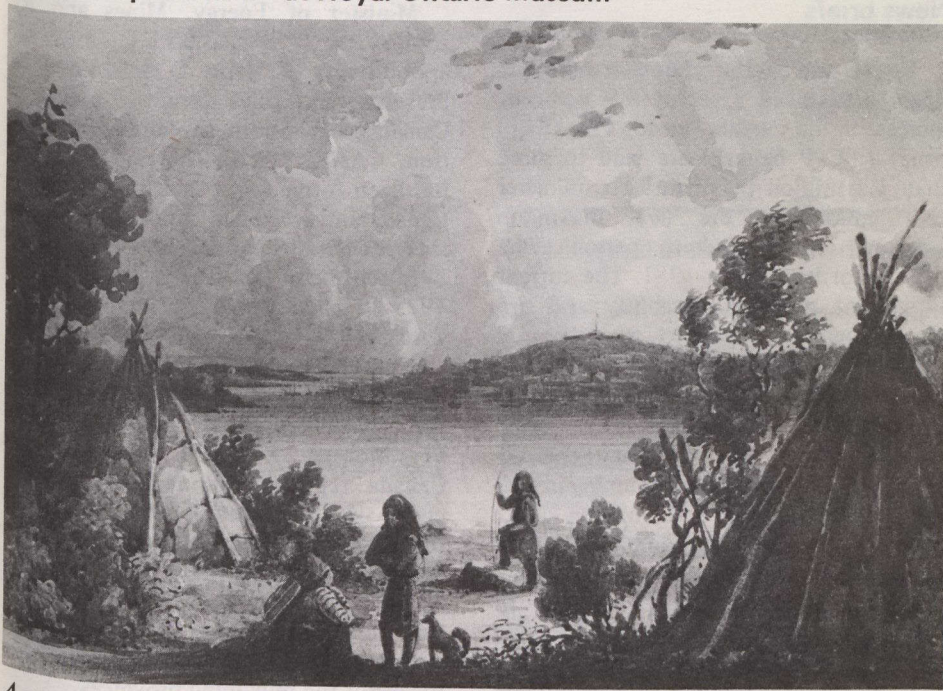


News of the arts

"Great Expectations" at Royal Ontario Museum



A partial view of Halifax from the Indian Encampment at Dartmouth by Robert Petley.

A major travelling exhibition, entitled *Great Expectations: The European Vision in Nova Scotia 1749-1848*, is on view at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto until February 23.

The 100 prints, watercolours and drawings in the exhibition were chosen to show that fashionable styles influenced most artists at the time. Thus, these early visual records were not always compatible with written accounts, sometimes creating

a misleading impression of Nova Scotia, at home and abroad.

Drawings of buildings and harbour plans produced in the first decade of British rule are among the most accurate records in the exhibition. Later, the shifting artistic fashions popular in Europe were responsible for many misconceptions. Visiting artists, trained in the classical school, portrayed Nova Scotia as a land of pastoral countrysides



Pleasant Street, Halifax by William Eager.

and showed a town life of grace and elegance. Those influenced by the picturesque painted over-romanticized close-ups of farmers or Indians harmoniously at peace with nature. Nova Scotia women who appreciated the ornamental arts of embroidery or dance drew floral studies, and military artists sketched orderly sea-bound perspectives that reflected their topographical training.

Viewed as a whole the exhibition presents a historic vision of early Nova Scotia and a glimpse of the artists who took the impressions they found and moulded them to fit their individual traditions, expectations and artistic conventions.

Great Expectations was organized by Mary Sparling, Director of Mount Saint Vincent Art Gallery, Halifax, and funded by the National Museums of Canada. International and national collections including the ROM's Sigmund Samuel Collection are represented.

Documentary wins award

Documentary film-maker Arthur Lamothe was named the first winner of the Quebec government's Prix Albert-Tessier, an annual prize created last year to honour outstanding Quebec cinematographers.

Lamothe, considered the dean of Quebec documentary film-makers, has been primarily concerned, in his work, with social and ethnographic subjects.

His most famous films include his 1962 classic *Les Bucherons de la Manouane* (*Loggers of the Manouane*).

The prize, named for Albert Tessier, one of the pioneers of Quebec cinema, carries with it a bursary of \$15,000.

Film project in final stages

The National Film Board (NFB) and the Cousteau Society recently completed the final stage of filming for a documentary on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The project, which began last July, has already involved four months of shooting and over 100 hours of filming which is now being edited at the National Film Board of Montreal.

Since October the Cousteau ship, *Calypso*, had been docked in Montreal for refitting in preparation for the next