

UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

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YORK GAINS DOWNTOWN FINE ARTS CENTRE

As well as its two campuses, York University now has a downtown location. The Faculty of Fine Arts is operating the former David Mirvish Gallery as a centre for performances and exhibitions on a four-month trial basis. Located on Markham Street just south of Bloor Street, the attractive building contains a total of almost 6,000 square feet of usable floor space on three levels.

The major intent of the project, titled Fine Arts on Markham, is to exhibit the talents of York's Fine Arts faculty and students, and to

provide a "home away from home for York people downtown," according to Associate Dean Ron Singer, in charge of the project.

"We want people to take note of the fact that the Faculty of Fine Arts is very productive and active. Our faculty are professionals in their fields, active, working ones, and we want to show off to the city," Prof. Singer said.

Five art exhibits, a music series, a mini-festival of plays and a dance performance are already planned for the center, which officially opens on Saturday,

January 20. The center will be open on a regular basis from noon to six p.m. Wednesday to Sunday staffed by Laurel Hobbs, former curator of the Zacks Gallery at Stong College, and her assistant Sheilah Wallin.

The new location is intended to showcase other Faculties and institutions as well, Prof. Singer said. "Actually, anything connected with the arts is relevant to our interests. We're discussing possible exhibits that the Faculties of Science and Environmental Studies could mount."

Ms. Hobbs added, "We're planning a showing of award-winning York student films, and Ryerson will be loaning us student films as well."

The major exhibitions will each run for three weeks. The inaugural showing will feature the work of Visual Arts Faculty members. A retrospective of the work of Tony Urquhart, organized by the Kit-chener-Waterloo Gallery, will follow.

Next will be the Theatre Production exhibit shown last year in McLaughlin Hall, which features student work in the fields of lighting, costuming, mask and make-up work, prop and set construction and design. Work from the York University Collection of art will then be displayed. The final exhibit may be an international/contemporary

show organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Performances begin with Jan. 19th concert in the new Friends of Music Recital Series. York Music professor James McKay will play works for the bassoon by Hindemith, Vivaldi, Timar and Grimes, to the piano accompaniment of Casey Sokol also a York faculty member. One aim of the series, said organizer, Prof. David Lidov, is to "have really good classical music available at a low price."

Tickets are \$2.50 for individual events, and series tickets are offered. Following concerts include pianist Mark Yollock on Sunday February 4; pianist Kuei Pin Yeo on February 23; tenor Thomas Schwarz on Sunday, March 18; saxophonist David Mott on Friday, April 6; and teen-aged violinist Todd Phillips on Sunday, April 22. Any profits from the series will go to the music students scholarship fund.

York dance lecturer Terrill Maguire will be giving solo performances on Saturday, January 27, and Sunday January 28. Other events planned are a Dancemakers performance, a mini-festival of new plays directed by visiting professor Alan Richardson, a York Orchestra concert, and a multi-media show by visual arts professor Vera Frenkel.

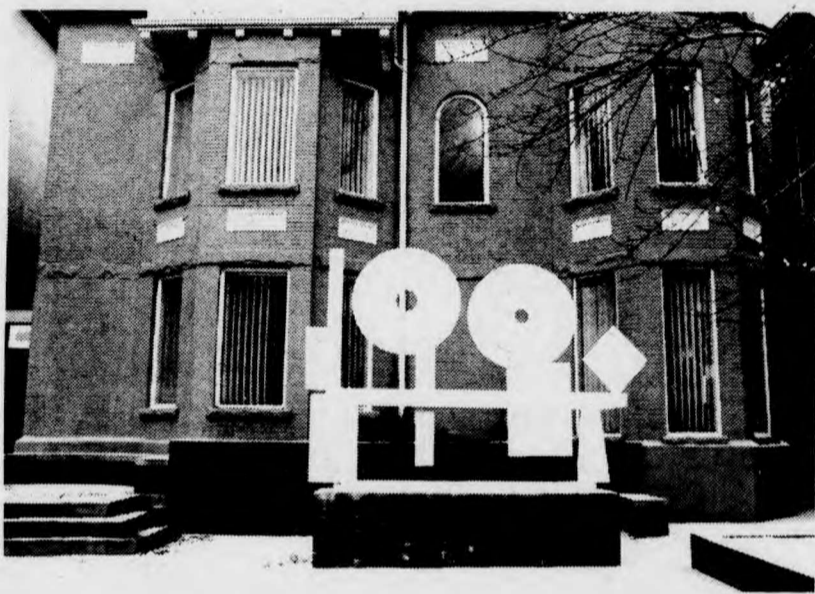
The building is a much-

remodelled house, just steps away from the Markham St. exit of the Bathurst subway station. In the basement, there are three rooms, which will be used for multimedia shows, film screenings, and a performance space. The ground level contains the office, a small gallery room, and the main gallery, an impressive, skylighted area with a high ceiling and 167 running feet of walls. The upstairs level has a balcony, another small gallery, and a seminar room.

It housed the David Mirvish Gallery for the past fifteen years. "The Faculty of Fine Arts has been trying to get a downtown location for many years," Prof. Singer said. "This location will give students an incredible opportunity, because coming here you're really exposing yourself to the public, to the commercial world, and the professional world. We're trying to overcome the tendency to work in an ivory tower setting."

As an exhibition and performance area, it will complement existing galleries and theatres at York, Prof. Singer said. "Some exhibits and productions at the main campus will be duplicated down here, and vice versa. The possibility of extending productions into two shows should increase student interest in participating in them," he said.

For information, call Fine Arts on Markham at 532-2885.



Fine Arts on Markham: the exterior

Field Trips Study Life from Arctic to Tropics

How would you like to visit a tropical reef in Belize during February, or a lemming in the High Arctic during July, and get course credit for it?

It's possible with the field trip program offered by York's biology department in co-operation with five other Ontario universities. Each trip lasts from one to two weeks, and successful completion of the requirements gains students two science credits... and some first-hand experience with a wide variety of environments.

The cost of the courses ranges from \$45 for Ontario field trips to \$550 for the "exotic" locations: the High Arctic (near Igloolik, NWT), Churchill, Manitoba, Belize (formerly the British Honduras), and Trinidad. Registrations are accepted during January at the biology department. The trips take place between mid-February to early September.

Arts students are welcome and frequently take the courses for their required science credits, according to biology professor Donald McQueen, Ontario co-ordinator for the 1979 program. He and the other course teachers from the participating universities — York, Queen's, Carleton, Brock, Western and Waterloo — give up to a month of their time to organizing and leading their courses.

"It's fun to be working on such a practical level, and the students sometimes do tremendous work. Even those who normally do the minimum work necessary to get through their courses suddenly get involved and do very well," Prof. McQueen says.

Of the approximately 50 geography and biology professors who have led courses over the last few years, ten have been from York. One of them is associate

professor of biology Martin Lewis, who leads the Field course in the High Arctic. He says: "It's a good example of inter-university cooperation in which the quality of education is greatly increased by pooling resources. Not only do we often have the Ontario expert in a given field leading a course, but the students' range of choices is expanded."

Prof. McQueen adds: "The Ontario scheme is being looked at as a possible model for a Canada-wide program. Across the country at present, no group of universities offers anything like the scope and diversity of courses we have."

The program has steadily increased in size since its creation in the early 1960s by York, Queen's, and Carleton Universities.

This year it will send a total of 290 students out on 26 different field "modules." Each module is led by an instructor from one of the universities, and has a fixed number of spaces available to students from each university. Thus, in a typical field course of eleven to fourteen students, five places would be reserved for students from Queen's, the university with the most participants each year, and three would be held for York students.

The courses concentrate on Canadian and northern environments, but there are trips to the tropical climates of Belize and Trinidad, understandably among the most popular areas in terms of student applications. But the two men emphasize the genuine academic value of the program and the hard work demanded from students and instructors alike.

"These courses are no picnic. Everyone is up by 7 a.m. An oral exam is given at the end of each course, and a written project

report is due within six weeks of the course's end," Prof. Lewis says. Courses vary in duration from a minimum of one week to a maximum of three weeks, and each university is given a limited number of places on specific courses.

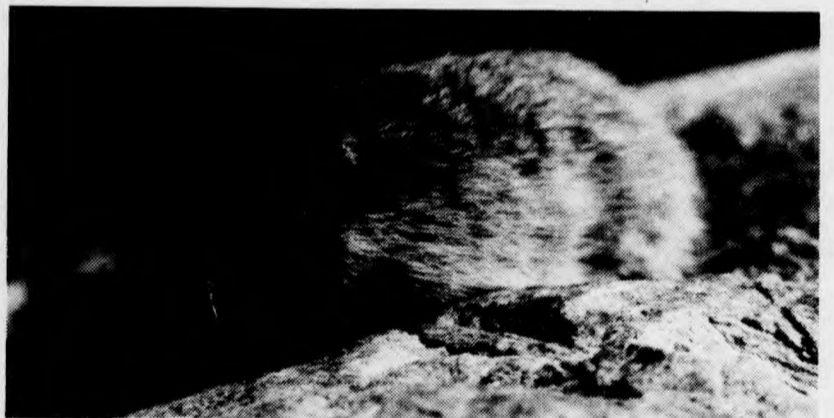
"We're not going away to lie on a beach and have a good time. The food is generally quite good, but we're staying in tents or field stations, spending up to 12 or 14 hours a day really looking at things," he continues.

Among the more exciting moments in new environments were free helicopter rides given the High Arctic field-trippers by a visiting group of geologists, and some eyeball-to-eyeball encounters with lemon sharks, who were fortunately more curious than aggressive, during a skin-diving expedition to study reef ecology in Belize.

Ontario trips are partially subsidized by the Ministry of Natural Resources, which loans field stations for a nominal charge; a station on Manitoulin Island is being made available for the first time this year. Trips to the High Arctic location, near Igloolik, are subsidized by the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in return for work done by the course members in refurbishing a field station on the Melville Peninsula.

"The facilities there are really very good now, as a result of the efforts of the students. We have all we need in the way of electricity, gas for cooking, heating and so on," Prof. Lewis says with pride.

"There's a real payoff for the instructors and for the students... as well as a feeling of camaraderie by the end of each course," Prof. McQueen concludes.



A lemming, one of the animals studied in the High Arctic. Other trips study fish, plants, water, and even bats.

Footnotes

Mental Retardation

The National Institute on Mental Retardation offers two levels of awards to graduate students planning careers in mental-retardation studies, or related professional fields.

The Type A awards are for one year of financial support, up to \$6,000 in value. Studies at the graduate level in such fields as sociology, psychology, education, physical education, social work, law and business administration are relevant. Applicants must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants intending to work in Canada after graduation. The deadline for Type A awards is February 19, 1979.

Type B awards, valued up to \$3,000 are intended to aid the costs of dissertation research or a program of study for students. Deadline is April 13, 1979. Both Type A and Type B awards include the

possibility of a one-week-period of orientation training. For further information, contact the Secretary, NIMR, York campus, telephone (661-9611.)

Gatt Panel

As the next event in its Public Policy Programme, McLaughlin College will present "Status of Canada's Trade: The Implications of Current GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) Negotiations" on Thursday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Junior Common Room.

Moderator for the panel will be Ambassador J.H. Warren, Canadian Coordinator for the Multilateral Trade Negotiations; Mr. J.C. Crean, Chairman, Canadian Business Group for Multilateral Trade Negotiations, and President, International Chamber of Commerce (1975/766); and Dr. John Beare, associate professor of economics.