

# News of the arts

## Lottery funds enable gallery to build outstanding collection

Thanks to funds made available from the Wintario provincial lottery, Toronto's Art Gallery of Ontario has enlarged its collection of historical and Canadian art to the point where the collection is considered to be one of the finest in Canada.

Dr. Roald Nasgaard, the gallery's chief curator, says that without Wintario funds the recent growth of the Canadian collection would have been more haphazard and of a lower quality.

Before Wintario, curators were restricted to very small budgets for new acquisitions, said Dr. Nasgaard. While it is true that before Wintario, the Canadian collection at the gallery had many good works, it was by no means as comprehensive as it is today. There were many gaps in the Canadian collection which the curators could see no way of filling. "The gifts we got did help, but we could not build systematically according to our understanding of how art was and had been developed."

The whole basis of the Wintario grant system is that it acts as a stimulus to fund-raising for a number of cultural agencies. In the case of the Art Gallery of Ontario the agreement is that Wintario will match, dollar-for-dollar, any money the gallery raises from the private sector which is



*Cabin Shelf* by David Milne was purchased with assistance from Wintario.

used to purchase works of Canadian artists. This dollar-for-dollar arrangement extends to gifts of art as well. Wintario will match the dollar value of gifts to the gallery as "long as the gift has no strings attached", said William Withrow, director of the gallery.

This policy of matching the value of gifts of works of art makes it possible for the gallery to get more Wintario money for the purchase of additional works of art. The arrangement is not unique with the Art Gallery of Ontario; it extends to all public art galleries in the province.

## National Film Board wins at Yorkton festival

The Yorkton International Film Festival, considered to be North America's oldest short film festival, marked its thirtieth year of competition by awarding 18 Golden Sheaf trophies to Canadian films, 11 of which went to the National Film Board.

This is the first time that foreign films were not included in the judging, but selected titles were screened for the public. Yorkton decided to hold an annual competition for Canadian films only, since they are being produced in large numbers, with 230 entries this year.

Winners for NFB were:

- Best children's film: NFB film *Benoit* by Beverly Shaffer shared \$1,000 top prize with *Nikkolina* by International Telefilm.
- Best comedy: *L'affaire Bronswik*, directed by Robert Awad and André Leduc.
- Best sports and recreational film: *Le*

*pillier de cristal* directed by Marc Hébert.

- Best television and public affairs film: *Chasing An Eclipse* directed by Ian Elkin and Norma Bailey.
- Best experimental film: *Travel Log* directed by Donald Winkler.
- Best animated film: (two winners) *This Is Your Museum Speaking*, directed by Lynn Smith, and *Blow Hard*, produced by Chris Hinton and Brad Casler.
- Best documentary film: *12,000 Men*, directed by Martin Duckworth.
- Best visual essay: *After Life*, directed by Shelah Reljic.
- Best cinematography in a film: (two winners) Jean Louis Frund for *Le Grand Héron*, an NFB film, and *The Fragile Sea*, a Mako film.
- Best original music: Bettina Matzkun for the song in *The Hometown*, an NFB film.

## Debate on the arts

The Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA), the major national arts-based advocate of the arts, has begun a campaign to involve the public in the development of new federal cultural policies.

"The CCA wishes to encourage the broadest possible public debate on the future of the arts in this country," said Micheline Legendre, CCA's president.

The announcement follows the recent appointment by the Secretary of State of a 15-member Advisory Committee on Cultural Policy. Over the next few months, the Committee will assist with the preparation of a "blue paper" which will form the basis of the work of a Special Joint Parliamentary Committee established to review future directions and options for arts and culture in the Eighties. The Committee will travel across Canada to receive briefs and listen to testimony.