

## **Art related Watershed Ways Articles in this document include:**

Celebrating the art of the Ottawa River watershed

Ottawa River Institute adds heritage works to on-line gallery

Let's get passionate about our love for the Ottawa Valley

## **Celebrating the art of the Ottawa River watershed**

17 Dec 2004 Lynn Jones

It is no surprise then that the Ottawa River watershed has been a source of inspiration for artists dating from thousands of years back. One significant example of ancient art, dating from at least 3,000 years ago, is Oiseau Rock or *Migizi Kiishkaabikaan*, as it is called in Algonquin language. Situated on a cliff on the Ottawa River, Oiseau Rock is a sacred pictograph site. The Algonquin today describe it as a beautiful, powerful, place where the earth's energy is exposed and where the pictographs represent their ancient traditional understanding of the spiritual and physical landscape. (*Ken Swayze, Canadian Museum of Civilization*).

Perhaps the most famous modern painter to draw inspiration from the watershed was Tom Thompson. Thompson painted many beautiful images in Algonquin Park, most of which is in the watershed. One of his most famous paintings, "The Jack Pine", was inspired by the shores of Grand Lake, near Achray in 1916. About this painting, a curator at the National Gallery wrote that it is "an icon embodying the spirit of the land and the Canadian experience of nature".

In the early to mid-1900's, most, if not all members of the Group of Seven painted extensively in the Ottawa River watershed. Scenes included the countryside outside of Montreal (A.Y. Jackson and J.E.H. MacDonald), the more northerly wilderness near Mattawa (Franklin Carmichael and J.E.H. MacDonald), the south-eastern edge of the watershed in Bancroft (A.J. Casson) and Algonquin Park, to which members were introduced by Tom Thompson. In later years, many of the group frequently visited the Combermere area for some autumn painting. In the '50s and early '60s, A.Y. Jackson made a number of paintings around Lake Clear and the Opeongo Line when visiting a friend at his Lake Clear cottage.

Earlier examples of watershed art include a number of paintings by Frances Anne Hopkins, a British woman who painted detailed, naturalistic canoe scenes as she traveled through the watershed in a Voyageur canoe with her husband, an inspector for the Hudson's Bay Company. One of her most famous paintings, "Shooting the Rapids", can be viewed on the Museum of Civilization website. Many other 1800's era paintings from the watershed depicting early life and scenes of nature on the Ottawa and its tributaries are contained in the National Archives of Canada.

Drawing inspiration from the Ottawa River watershed today are legions of contemporary artists working in all kinds of media from wood and metal to paint and paper, often incorporating elements of nature in their designs.

Hoping in a small way to increase appreciation for the works of watershed artists and make their works available to a wider audience, the Ottawa River Institute (ORI) has recently launched an on-line art gallery of contemporary works from the Ottawa River watershed. The gallery can be viewed at [www.ottawariverinstitute.ca](http://www.ottawariverinstitute.ca).

Another aim of the ORI gallery is to increase appreciation for the majestic Ottawa River watershed itself. In the words of one of the gallery's on-line artists, Kathrin Winkler of Morrison Island, "The arts open a

door to seeing and cherishing the beauty that surrounds us - and if that door is opened wide enough we will strive to protect that life-giving gift of river and sky."

The ORI gallery currently contains work from painters Kathrin Winkler, John Macgillivray, John Bateson and John Almstedt, and photographer and hand-made paper artist Edith Hanatschek. Original paintings and archival quality prints are available for purchase through the website, with a portion of the proceeds going to support the Ottawa River Institute's programs and activities. Original paintings and prints are also on display at Purvis Gallery and Framing in downtown Pembroke.

*Lynn Jones is a founding member of the Ottawa River Institute, a non-profit, charitable organization based in the Ottawa Valley. ORI gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and private donors for the creation of the Watershed Gallery.*

## **Ottawa River Institute adds heritage works to on-line gallery**

12 Dec 2004 Lynn Jones

The Ottawa River watershed is a place of great natural beauty. The majestic Ottawa itself flows over 1000 km from its source in the wilderness of north-western Quebec, with at least 10 major tributaries: wild and beautiful rivers such as the Madawaska, Petawawa, Dumoine, Coulonge, Black, Gatineau, and Lievre; and less wild but still beautiful rivers such as the Bonnechere, Rideau and South Nation. There are vast, wild expanses of forest as well, including large swaths of boreal spruces and many wonderful pine and hardwood forests and glades. Countless are the places in the watershed where a connection to the great mystery lies very close indeed.

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One aim of the ORI gallery is to increase appreciation for the Ottawa River watershed. In the words of one of the gallery's artists, Kathrin Winkler of Morrison Island, "The arts open a door to seeing and cherishing the beauty that surrounds us - and if that door is opened wide enough we will strive to protect that life-giving gift of river and sky."

Original paintings, archival quality prints and postcards are available for purchase through the ORI website and on-line gallery, with a portion of the proceeds going to support the Ottawa River Institute's programs and activities. Original paintings and prints are also on display at Purvis Gallery and Framing in downtown Pembroke.

[Go to heritage gallery](#)

*Lynn Jones is a member of the Ottawa River Institute a non-profit, charitable organization based in the Ottawa Valley supported by volunteers, local donors and a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.*

## **Let's get passionate about our love for the Ottawa Valley**

21 Apr 2002 Lynn Jones

Do you have some special things that you love about this beautiful valley of ours? The river and its mighty rapids, the beautiful pines, the profusion of trilliums every spring, the fall colours. . .

The Ottawa River Institute is gathering poetic tidbits from valley lovers everywhere. (Verses and poems are welcome too!) If you are reading this column, we would like to hear from you. Please send your offerings to us by phone, fax, or mail. You can also visit our website at [www.ottawariverinstitute.ca](http://www.ottawariverinstitute.ca) where you can submit your thoughts directly. With your permission, we will post submissions on our website, with or without the author's name, as requested.

Here are few recent gleanings from ORI members and friends:

I love . . .

" the way, at night, there are still dark places in the Valley, relatively unaffected by light pollution, where the night sky is still very visible in all its awesome glory."

" the towering pines that stand sentinel on rocky cliffs."

"majestic Mount Martin with its spectacular view down the Ottawa to Alumette Island and the channels"

" my chickadee friends who scold me in the winter if I leave the feeder empty for too long."

" the heavenly scent and soft feel underfoot as I walk on a carpet of pine needles on a warm summer day."

"the two gigantic Silver Maples across the street that shade my house in the heat of summer and provide a spectacular playground for neighbourhood squirrels."

"the virgin forest in the Gillies Grove in Arnprior, nesting place in recent years for a pair of Red Shouldered Hawks"

"the beautiful Bonnechere Rivere, log-driving route in bygone days, and provider of energy and water to several picturesque communities located on its banks"

It is quite enjoyable to take some quiet time and reflect on what we love about this beautiful valley. So, until next time, happy jotting!

*Lynn Jones is a founding member of the Ottawa River Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering sustainable communities in the Ottawa River watershed. To send your "Let's get passionate" submissions, phone 613-735-4876, fax 613-735-6444, mail to 381 Maple Avenue, Pembroke, Ontario K8A 1M4, or visit the ORI.*