

FALL UPDATE 2010

## Manly Edward MacDonald - *Interpreter of Old Ontario*

was officially launched September 8th in a gala opening at the John M. Parrott Art Gallery in Belleville. Paintings and portraits from the Parrott collection, as well as those from Loyalist College and private collections were on exhibit in the three gallery halls. As well, Glanmore National Historic Site showcased items previously owned by the MacDonalds and some of his sketchbooks. The Federation of University Women of Belleville and District displayed items showing their long association with the painter. Wine and canapes were served by the staff of L'Auberge de France, Belleville.

The festivities began with piper Peter Hill announcing the arrival of dignitaries and friends. Honorary guests included Duncan, Barbara, David and Joan MacDonald, Guelph, Rosemary Brander, Kingston, Stevie Cameron, Toronto, and Brant Cowie of ArtPlus Limited, Belleville. Over 200 invitees attended that first evening, which included a speech by the author. One of the surprises of the event was the DVD, "The Life & Times of Manly MacDonald", created by author Charles Beale, Ryan Koetstra and Gerry Fraiberg, who provided the voice-over and music background. The DVD chronicled MacDonald's life's achievements and his paintings through the seasons.

Former Bellevillian, Stevie Cameron, journalist, broadcaster and author, brought her grandparents' portraits. Cameron spoke of the Grahams' portraits, how they had commissioned MacDonald to paint the two how Cameron finally came to own them.

Duncan MacDonald made an unexpected speech to thank the author at the conclusion of the formal proceedings. He also signed books and danced a Scottish jig with Curator Susan Holland and his wife, Barbara.

An afternoon public opening was held at the same location on Saturday, September 11th. Susan Holland designated September, 2010, as Manly MacDonald Month. The event was such a success that the exhibition was extended into October.

Furby House Books, Port Hope held a wine and cheese book signing event for the author on Sunday, Sept 12th. Two different paintings by MacDonald of Port Hope Harbour, were exhibited, along with other landscapes. The DVD was also presented in the book store's first floor. It was a homecoming for the Beales, as they had previously lived in Port Hope and reconnected with old friends.

A Napanee book-signing and tea was held at Allan Macpherson House Museum on Saturday, Sept. 18th to an overflow crowd in the historic ballroom. Marcy Hawkins of Napanee talked about her late husband's parents buying two MacDonald paintings in 1948. She described 'The Sugar Bush' to the attentive crowd. The author then spoke of the honour of speaking to a hometown crowd. A man appeared just before the event with a J.W. Beatty painting. Beatty had been MacDonald's teacher and mentor at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto.

The next book signing was held at Books & Company in Picton on Saturday, Sept. 25th. One woman recognized her grandfather in a DVD painting. It pictured 'Hauling the Boat, Huyck's Point', which is the first plate in the book. The names of the horses, she said, were George and Pride. Another woman was excited to see her cottage in the painting of Roblin's Cove to Huff's Landing. She remarked that she would 'kill' to own the painting.

The author was present at Art on the Harbour, Oct. 1st at the Belleville Harbour Club, where local artists exhibited. The event was organized by artist Bob Keegan.

Books are being sold at the National Gallery Book Store, Ottawa, Greenley's, Belleville, Novel Idea, Kingston, Furby Book House, Port Hope, Lennox & Addington County Museum, and Antique Emporium, Smiling Wilderness, both in Napanee, with other independent book stores requesting copies of this first limited edition.

The easiest sale to date, the author said, was to a woman in a kayak who floated by the cottage dock and said, "Are you Mr. Beale? I want a book!"

The official Toronto launch begins Thursday, October 21st with an invitation only event from 7:00 - 9:00 at the John A. Libby Art Gallery, 463 King Street East. The evening will include the DVD presentation, "The Life and Times of Manly E. MacDonald", a book signing and wine and cheese. A public opening will be held there Saturday, October 23rd from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. Gallery owner John Libby has had a long association with Manly MacDonald paintings through the sale and exhibition of his work.

Book order invoices from Plumley Press have now been sent out for those on the pre-order list. If you have not received an invoice, or would like to order a book:

Contact Plumley Press at **613-354-8029**  
or 8597 County Road 2, RR6, Napanee, K7R 3L1  
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