

# Artist's home pretty as a picture

By KRYSTYNA JONES

It gets its name from a formation in the Credit River, which is appropriately in the shape of an oxbow. Hidden amongst the trees on the bank of the river, lies the studio, almost screened from passing motorists that whizz along Mississauga Road.

Situated just north of the Dundas Highway on the winding road, Oxbow Studio was designed by its two artist-owners, Alan Crossley and Constance Burns Crossley, 14 years ago.

Consisting of wooden beams, floor-length windows, slanting roofs and plush deep-blue carpets, the home, and studio was built to look old. The front archway, made of Credit River stone, takes you back to medieval England.

Inside the studio hangs a collection of 125 to 175 pieces; paintings, sculptures, pottery and wall hangings. The work is the combined effort of the husband and wife team plus some heavy, robust pieces by

Jean Bolt, a woman living near Chatham. *LPC*

Constance Burns says she's involved in the subtleties of colour, mood and movement, taking great pleasure and sensuous joy in presenting on canvas her very full and happy life.

After an outing to Julie's Mansion in Toronto, she came back and painted the scenes from memory, depicting the very "posh and sticky atmosphere" beautifully.

Her prized painting shows the Horns of Hattim and the Sea of Galilee behind the Golan Heights, accomplished when she was in the Middle East.

Extensively travelled, the woman has worked in the United States, and Mexico, Europe, England and all across Canada. Her woven wall-hangings with interlining take a full year to complete and they measure eight feet by four feet.

Both artists tend to specialize in Mississauga sites. The Credit River with its trees and rocky formations

produce lovely scenes, as do old buildings that will probably soon be torn down, says Constance.

They claim that a lot of young people buy their work, two or three pieces at that, and are astonished that someone would actually "collect our stuff".

Alan Crossley began stone carving in England at the age of seven where a noted sculptor, Alan Brough, urged him to continue.

The artist, who is an architect and town planner as well, studied at the Manchester School of Art, before coming to Canada with his wife in 1948. Turning to full time painting and sculptoring in 1970, he is presently involved in painting Ontario coaching inns.

The well-known Shipp Corporation has recently acquired his "Homecoming" sculpture, which now sits in the front lobby of Applewood Place, an elaborate apartment complex on Bloor Street.

The large, bronze work represents the joyous release of tension when

those who have been separated are united again. The piece is the result of new experimentation with sculpture, consisting of figures hammered cold rather than shaped in wax and then cast in metal in a foundry as is the usual custom. The contoured sections were pounded by means of a sledge-hammer and then rivetted together.

In the main foyer of Applewood Place hang also several oil and water colours by Constance Burns based on the theme of apples and trees, native to Mississauga.

Both artists' work hangs in many collections in Canada, England and the States. A show is being planned for the fall in Canada House in London, England.

Recent purchasers include the Mississauga Library Board, Erin Mills Developments Limited, Ministry of Trade and Commerce and the Ontario Department of Tourism and Development.

Constance Burns says the studio is open all the time.

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Peel Region - Artists

Crossley, Alan