

Work of author due for revival

Although Mazo de la Roche, author of the famed Jalna series, died 18 years ago, her work seems due for revival.

The novelist died on Thursday, July 12, 1961 at the age of 82. Her novels, which have been compared with John Galsworthy's The Forsyte Saga, were tremendously popular in the late 1920s and early 30s but have been off the bestseller lists for 40 years.

But, the centennial of her birth has sparked a renewed interest in her work, some of which was set in the Clarkson area.

Cyclos Theatre, a local professional theatre group, is examining her work, including three unpublished plays. Her work may be included in the group's

1980 season.

Two of her plays, Whiteoaks and The Mistress of Jalna, deal with a fictitious Whiteoaks family who live in a house called Jalna which de la Roche said was based in part on Benares on Clarkson Rd.

De la Roche and her lifelong companion, Caroline Clement, spent several summers at Trail Cottage, which the couple had built on what is now Ravine Dr. in Clarkson.

It was at Trail Cottage that de la Roche wrote Jalna, the first in a series of 16 novels dealing with the Whiteoaks family. Whiteoaks of Jalna, the second in the series, was also written there.