

# The New Mississaugans

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by ARTHUR LOWE

## This physician wears two hats

ADVERTISING

Everybody has heard at one time or another of the young fellow who wanted to be a painter, or a sculptor, or a poet, but was compelled by parental objections to adopt a more 'sensible' vocation.

Dr. Adolph Piotrowski's story is somewhat different. He is an artist today because his father, John Piotrowski, pushed him into it.

"Until his death in 1949 father was continually urging me to study art," he said when I was digging up the facts concerning this New Mississaugan who is both a doctor associated with the Queensway General Hospital and an artist with a rapidly-growing reputation for his paintings and sculptures.

"Father came from Poland in 1928 and perhaps because of the opportunities he had been denied, he attached tremendous importance to education — not as the basis of a money-making career but because of the cultural values it provided."

It is indicative of the way many of us have come to evaluate the existing social pattern that Dr. Piotrowski's recollection of his father's attitude will cause some people, even among our educators, an unusual kind of shock. For years the emphasis on the need for education has turned on its value in equipping the student for a successful career — success being evaluated in terms of dollars. There are even those, lured by high salaries into joining the teaching profession, who tend to foster the belief that the value of an education can best be measured by the material benefits it produces.

**INTEREST IN PEOPLE**  
Dr. Piotrowski's attitude is entirely different; he is following the route his father took. Even the fact that he had chosen a medical career stems more from an abstract interest in people than from the desire to win professional acclaim. The effect of practicing medicine, he told me, has been to activate his interest in people as subjects for painting.

Adolph Piotrowski, who

is married and has three daughters, was born in Toronto in 1931. After attending public school he went to Parkdale Collegiate and graduated as top student in 1949. After college came the University of Toronto medical school — and following his graduation in 1956 he became partner in a medical practice. In 1964 he designed and planned a house for his family on Autumn Breeze drive in Cooksville.

There you have the bare facts of the early story, but in Dr. Piotrowski's case the bare facts don't mean much. That he was a brilliant student; that today he is an extremely popular physician; that he somehow finds time for two full-time vocations — these things are interesting, but in a sense extraneous to the real story.

The real story lies in the mind of the doctor and would explain — if one could reach it — the drive that keeps him working at two professions, and giving more to each than most men are able to give to one. The question of added financial return, either present or prospective, is out. Just to know Adolph Piotrowski is to know that he has never valued his work in either field in terms of dollars. It goes deeper than that — far deeper.

**PUTS ART FIRST**  
"I once thought of quitting medicine and giving my full time to art," he told me. "It was a question whether I could devote the time and devotion each demands. I decided I could, and I am thankful now for that decision because one has helped the other . . ."

In attempting to give a resume of Dr. Piotrowski's philosophy of art I am conscious of my own inadequacy to provide the full picture; but in condensing it into a few words I have tried to show that neither his painting nor his sculpture is purely representational.

His paintings, he told me, both abstract and objective, are inspired by his conception of the life force and concerned with

themes tied to nature — living, dying, growth and so on. He has travelled extensively in his search for subject material — to Mexico and the West Indies; to Europe and North Africa. And in addition to his home on Autumn Breeze he owns a 100-acre farm near Flesherton which has provided him with a wealth of subject material.

### BASIC MOTIVATION

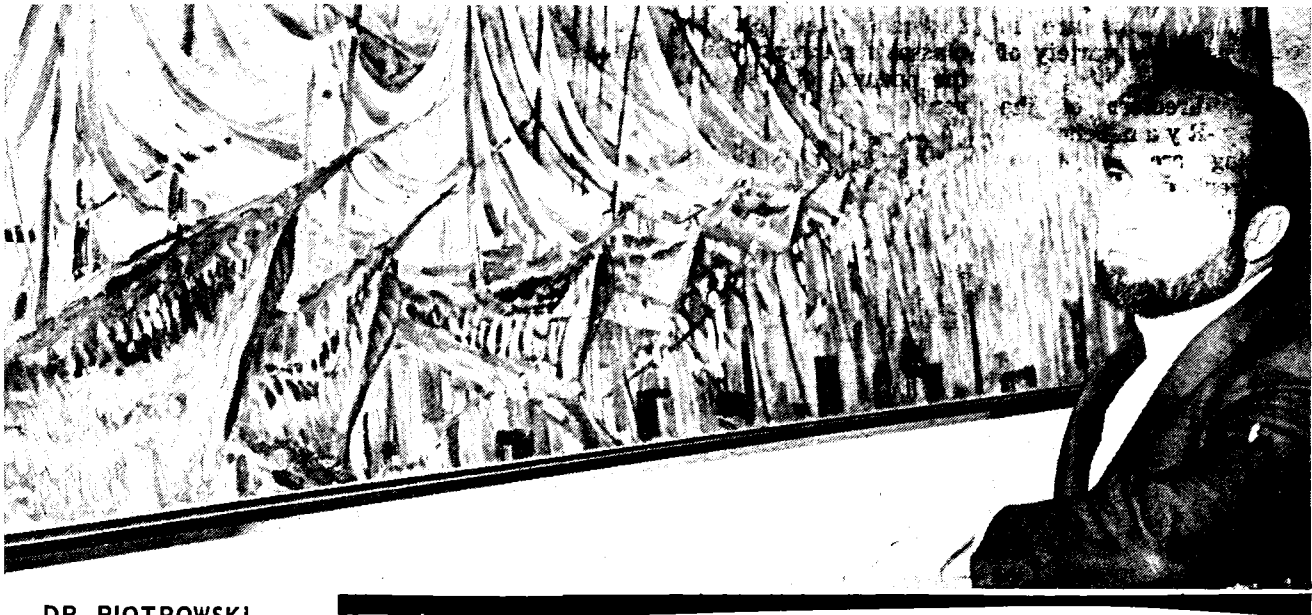
Because the basic motivation for his art is life in all its forms, with special stress on human life, it is easy to grasp the relationship between the two professions he practices.

"In Mexico," he told me, "I found many animal skeletons, sometimes eroded into weird shapes by the wind-driven sand. Lately I have been developing my paintings from these bone forms."

Examples of Dr. Piotrowski's work are included in a number of Canadian art collections. He put on his first one-man show at the Port Credit library in 1966 and since then he has had a multitude of shows both locally and in Toronto. He has donated paintings to the Retarded Children's Fund for their annual show and to the Marie Curie Women's Club scholarship fund.

One of his paintings, with light pouring on a anchored line of sailboats, hangs in the entrance foyer of the Queensway General Hospital. It is a remarkable painting by a remarkable man.

Advised



**DR. PIOTROWSKI**  
— and painting

**TOWN OF MISSISSAUGA PUBLIC**