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Louis Temporale carves a legacy Temporale

Port Credit stone sculptor lets his work tell the tale

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Stone sculptor Louis Temporale has been at the same Port Credit location for 60 years. His studio, at 176 Lakeshore Blvd. W., recently underwent renovations. Temporale, for his part, remains in original working condition.

Temporale arrived in Canada in 1927, and, having studied art and sculpture in his native Italy, continued his studies at the Ontario College of Art.

An elected member of the Sculptors Society of Canada, the Ontario Society of Artists, and the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, Temporale early on worked on huge marble carvings in semi- and full-relief panels, murals and friezes commissioned for banks, colleges, government and business buildings.

Among his works are historic markers along boulevards in prominent sections of Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal. Notable were his classic mythological figures, such as fleeting Mercury, in a huge, dramatic frieze adorning the old massive downtown Bank of Nova Scotia building at King and Bay Sts.

Temporale's sculpted figures were very popular in the '50s and some of his art may still be viewed around Toronto. The old Post Office building at the foot of Front and Yonge Sts. still boasts Temporale's bas-relief, cast-bronze murals depicting the first steamships surging through the St. Lawrence while Canadian natives and pioneers watch from the shore of old Fort York. Some of his works also remain on the Ryerson College Gould St. campus.

Temporale's historical three-dimensional carvings of the early Canadian explorers were used as national cenotaphs and on archways over Niagara's entrance highways.

A number of these pieces remain as a lasting tes-

timonial to Canada's past in museum collections.

Meanwhile, the building that houses Temporale's business, Canadian Art Memorials Ltd., has become an integral part of Mississauga's landscape.

The latest interior and exterior renovations update the building design to adapt to Mississauga's new and modern image. The premises are situated in the older village area of Port Credit, which hasn't experienced the renewal that outlying city

developments have. Rather than disturb the charm of the village core, the new-look Canadian Art Memorials Ltd. blends the best of the old with a contemporary facade that complements and enhances its surroundings.

Before the Temporalles purchased the building in 1929, it had been an icehouse and was being used for trade operations.

Temporale found the old icehouse made an excellent studio for his large stone sculptures. Then, as he established the monument business, the original wooden structure was incorporated into a larger brick building and extension.

With the economic boom of the 1960s, the carved marble and stone monuments he produced were much in demand. The business grew — an office and showroom were added. The studio was updated to accommodate heavy equipment to help with production, although Temporale still insists on meticulous hand-crafted detail.

Large and small sculptures of decorative angels and figures of the Holy Family for memorials on mausoleums, crypts and stone markers for single plots were the mainstay of the workshops. Cemeteries throughout the province, in addition to St. Mary's and Assumption here in Mississauga, exhibit Canadian Art Memorials Ltd. gravestones.



LOUIS
TEMPORALE