

Temporale awarded Order of Ontario

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Staff Reporter

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Port Credit stone sculptor Louis Temporale was one of 26 Ontarians honored with the province's highest citizen award last Wednesday.

Temporale, 82, and his wife Margaret were guests of Lieutenant Governor Lincoln Alexander at Queen's Park, where the Italian-born sculptor was presented with a 1991 Order Of Ontario medal. Since 1929, Temporale has been president of Canadian Art Memorials Ltd., on Lakeshore Rd. in Port Credit.

Other recipients of the medal included Group Of Seven painter A.J. Casson, classical guitarist Lioba Boyd and novelist Timothy Findley.

Temporale was nominated for the award by Ottawa Senator Peter Bosa and Toronto Historical Board preservation consultant William Greer in recognition of the stone carvings he has completed for such prominent Toronto buildings as the Post Office Terminal, the Royal York Hotel at Front and York Sts. and the Bank Of Nova Scotia building at King and Bay Sts.

His limestone, marble and granite works are characterized by images that are distinctly Canadian, such as the three-dimensional carvings of early Canadian explorers used as national cenotaphs in Ottawa, and on bridge abutments at the northwest entrance to Hamilton near the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW). The Canada Permanent building on Bay St. in Toronto is adorned both inside and outside with Indiana limestone carvings by Temporale and has been designated an historical landmark.

Temporale's son and partner, Louis Jr., says, "There are very few sculptors who carve in granite." "No one has ever carved granite sculptures the sheer magnitude and size of the commissions my father has done, and that is one of the reasons he received this award."

One such granite work is the King George VI statue facing the Canadian falls in Niagara Falls, Canada, which is 15½-feet tall and weighs over 60 tons. The Canadian pink granite statue took Temporale seven years to complete, and he says it remains his most prized piece of work.

The sculptors' work has also received acclaim outside of Canada. A member of the Sculptors Society of Canada, his work is part of its permanent collection which tours internationally. In private collections, his designs can be found in the office of the ombudsman of Ontario, the Peel Board of Education and the Shipp Corporation. A small marble carving of a child was commissioned to Temporale as the Mary Ellen Award by the American Society for the Prevention Of Cruelty To Children.

Temporale still puts in full days at Canadian Art Memorials Ltd. and is currently working at duplicating his numbered private collection in aluminum and bronze.



Master at work

Staff photo by Chris Horobin

Port Credit stone sculptor Louis Temporale was one of 26 Ontarians to receive the Order of Ontario at Queen's Park last Wednesday. The 82-year-old is shown here with a 1977 work from his private collection which he carved using hand tools only. The sculptor makes three replicas of each work before he begins.