

Heritage Society hosting Group of Seven film festival

In honour of the 50th anniversary of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, the Belfountain Heritage Society is hosting an Everything Group of Seven Film Festival.

Three films will be shown in November, January and February. All three showings will be at Erin Centre 2000 Cinema at 14 Boland Dr., Erin.

The shows will be Nov. 26, Jan. 21 and Feb. 25. Each night will feature a different film about the Group of Seven and will include a wine tasting from the Diamond Estate McMichael Collection Group of Seven wines, followed by a question-and-answer session with the filmmakers two evenings and McMichael Canadian Art Collection representative the other.

The Nov. 26 film will be Painted Land: In search of the Group of Seven. The feature Jan. 21 will be West Wind: The Vision of Tom Thompson. The Feb. 25 film will be Where the Universe Sings: The spiritual journey of Lawren Harris.

Each evening will start with the wine tasting at 7 p.m., followed by the film showing and subsequent Q&A starting at 8.

Admission will be \$30 in advance for one show or \$35 at the door. Passes for the whole festival are available for \$75. The cost of students will \$25 per show in advance or \$30 at the door, and festival passes are selling for \$60.

Tickets can be purchased at www.belfountainheritage.com

There are some local connections to the Group of Seven.

F. H. Varley was a frequent visitor to Belfountain. He stayed with friend and fellow artist Jessie Crosbie in one of the cottages that used to populate Belfountain Conservation Park, formerly known as Mack Park. Largely recognized as his muse, Crosbie's portrait adorns the cover of Katerina Atanassova's book, F.H. Varley-Portraits into the Light.

When Signe and Robert McMichael moved from Kleinburg to their Belfountain home overlooking the Forks of the Credit valley in 1981, they had no idea that their backyard held the vantage point from where A.J. Casson painted Credit Forks more than 40 years earlier before the home was built?