

Archive 4136

THUNDER BAY HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY

P R O G R A M M E

of

"G R A N D O P E N I N G"

NEW THUNDER BAY MUSEUM BUILDING

3:00 p.m.

Friday, December 8th, 1972

P R O G R A M M E

Opening Remarks.....by Capt. Roland B. Mann,
President of the Thunder Bay
Museum Historical Society.

Brief History of the Thunder Bay
Historical Society.....by Mr. Keith Denis

Greetings from the City Mayor Saul Laskin

Greetings from the Representative of the Federal
Government.

Introduction of guest speaker....Mr. James Jessiman

Guest Speaker the Honourable James W. Snow M.P.P.,
Minister of Government Services

CUTTING OF RIBBON OFFICIALLY OPENING MUSEUM

**Introduction of Mr. McCullough ...by Mr. Wally
Bryan**

**OPENING OF THE MCCULLOUGH GALLERY.....Mr. John C.
McCullough**

Proceed to McCullough Gallery

**Unveiling portrait "Maternity" in the
McCullough Gallery
...by Mrs. Ethel McLennan**

Refreshments and Tour of Museum and Gallery

The Thunder Bay Historical Society was founded in 1908, with Peter McKellar as the first President.

The first museum was started in 1942 in the Brodie St. library with Carson Piper as President. Official opening was performed BY Mrs. Peter McKellar.

Late in 1971, the Historical Society became aware of the availability of the Land Titles building, and through Mr. Jim Jessiman, reached an agreement with the Ontario Government to sublease the building from the city.

At the first of the year a Federal Government Local Incentive Program was applied for, and received for the purpose of cataloguing, moving of artifacts to the new museum, setting up displays and a filing system. In late January a dozen people were working on the cataloguing.

Shortly after this, a winter works program, sponsored by the Ontario Government through the city, provided the labour necessary to do the alterations to the interior of the building. Modern showcases and platform displays were installed, and storage cupboards built in the basement.

A bequest was received by the Society from the estate of the late Dr. Crawford C. McCullough for the establishment of an art gallery. For many years this was not possible because a building was not available. The new museum building has a large basement room that is very suited to be an art gallery. We are opening it with a collection of water colours and lithographs of historic interest locally.

The painting "Maternity" was painted by the late Mary Ritter Hamilton, a distinguished artist. The painting was donated to the City of Port Arthur by her estate because she felt it best expressed the happiest time of her life, when as a young woman, she lived in Port Arthur with her husband, and had her baby there. At the age of 24, she lost her husband and baby. They are buried in Port Arthur. Mrs. Hamilton went to France to study Art and became an artist of renown. Her painting "Maternity" now hangs in our McCullough Gallery.
