

## WHAT'S ON

**PETER GODDARD**  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

An added attraction to an Ontario summer vacation once amounted to little more than an evening at the local drive-in, if one was around, an outing to some local burger joint or — if you were really lucky — a trip to a second-tier zoo.

This tourism vacuum has led many regional art galleries to pump up the action with their summer programs at the very time some private GTA galleries close up shop entirely. Bigger art stars are often found out of the city than in it these days.

In many cases, the lures might be the galleries themselves or their locales. Take Gallery Stratford. Designed by George Durand, the compact 1883 building with its neo-Gothic touches was the city's original pump house. It's a brief and hugely pleasant walk near the Avon River from the main Festival theatres. (Now if only Gallery Stratford could attract some more support from those various local authorities that should better understand the great space as a valuable artistic adjunct to the Shakespearean festival.)

Our out-of-city summer arts tour takes us from west to east on trips that should take no more than two hours from Toronto:

**Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery** (25 Caroline St. N., Waterloo): Better known internationally than regionally, the gallery is hosting various exhibitions over the summer. Of particular interest is "Earthborn 2010," a juried art show under the guidance of Joni Moriyama of the Ontario College of Art & Design, with work from the Waterloo Potters' Workshop. It continues to Aug. 22.

**Gallery Stratford** (54 Romeo St., Stratford): Zoos — their very structures, ideologies and their inhabitants — are big art news these days. "Natural History" offers one of the most comprehensive and downright enticing exhibitions along this line to be found anywhere this year. Curated by gallery veteran Jennifer Rudder, the exhibition includes work from Crystal Mowry looking at racist tendencies in anthropological re-creations, Joshua Jensen-Nagle animating a stuffed polar bear by way of photographic wizardry and Mircea Cantor's video view of an earthly paradise where

## VISUAL ARTS

# Gallery hopping around Ontario

Out-of-town galleries beckon with worthy shows by renowned

humans and animals aren't on the prowl for one another. Trevor Gould and Volker Seding also have work in the show.

Running concurrently is "Perth Huron Exhibition," under the guidance of Mary Misner, director of the Cambridge Galleries, showing regional artists. Both shows are on to Sept. 26.

**Flesherton Art Gallery** (22 Collingwood St., Flesherton): A funky, friendly gallery in one of the most art-centric towns in Ontario, the Flesherton Art Gallery is host to the Grey Highlands Art Circle. This new collective includes some artists — starting with Harold Klunder — with international reputations. "Raising Shakti/Restoring Balance," the summer group show, has work from artist Alan Glicksman who, we're warned, "explodes with surges of emotional energy," Robin Grebski "creating abstract shapes in plaster and beeswax," and Gordon Kemp, who calls himself the "Art Farmer." The exhibition continues to Aug. 1.

**Tom Thomson Art Gallery** (840 First Ave. W., Owen Sound): Still more animals. Curated by Kim Fullerton, "Do You Love Me?" explores the bonds between people and pets — pooches as status symbols, cats as critter comfort — with work from Tanya Mars, GB Jones, Christina Zeidler, Shari Hatt, Ian Phillips, Joanne Bristol, and Garry-Lewis James Osterberg. A limited selection of Lost Pet posters, some showing at the gallery, can be purchased with proceeds going to the Owen Sound Animal Shelter. "Do You Love Me?" continues to Sept. 12. "Hello My Name is Tom," an interactive exhibition centred on Tom Thomson's work, continues to Oct. 10.

**MacLaren Art Centre** (37 Mulcaster St., Barrie): "David Merritt: shimmy" draws interconnections between years of pop-tune titles in the form of imaginative musical flow charts by the London, Ont., artist/professor. "Shimmy," a touring exhibition, is on to Aug. 29. "Donald Stuart: Homage" consists

bitions organized by Anna Hudson, one of the country's most astute curators. "Cultural Floe: Modern and Inuit Traditions" connects the subjective nature of Inuit drawing and sculpture to its impact on contemporary Inuit culture. "A Tribute to Norman Bethune; the mural and political cartoons of Avrom Yanovsky" is a blue-collar manifesto with lots of swaggering humour. Both shows are on to Sept. 6, along with "Varley: Selections from the permanent collection."

**Robert McLaughlin Gallery** (72 Queen St. Civic Centre, Oshawa): "Symphonious Realm: Celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Group of Seven" continues to Aug. 26. "Browsing Beauty," by Andrea Sunder-Plassman and Sigi Torinus, explores the ability of cutting-edge technology — from weather balloons to websites — to redefine our idea of beauty's meaning. It's on to Sept. 5.

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of Stuart's necklaces individually celebrating achievements by a number of Canadian women in the sciences, arts, business and politics. "Homage" is on to Sept. 5.

**Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery of Markham** (216 Main St., Unionville): Depicting tradition is the concern behind a pair of exhi-



Trevor Gould's Model of a Nubian Giraffe is at Gallery Stratford, a modest, enjoyable jaunt from the main Festival theatres.