

JUNCTION THEMES

The Local Option Art Awards celebrate the independent "Spirit of the Junction" in all of us. They represent the best of cultural developments in the broadest sense. The waterways and the first nation's settlements set the stage as the earliest trading routes. The railway arrived to link the country. Industries and the community grew. Horses, trains, streetcars, motorcars and shoes all have colourful roles in the establishment of the community. Our excellent hospitality enlivened by music, the architecture and natural environment (especially trees, parks and gardens) have created the background for a vibrant community energized by activism, lively discussion of art and culture, a reputation for excellence in education and a very keen sense of social justice. For further details about the history of the Junction or specific inquiries please visit the West Toronto Junction Historical Society website at wtjhs.ca Or pick up the Centennial edition of the *Leader and Recorder* for sale at participating area businesses: Gathering Space/Cool Hand of a Girl, Pandemonium, Latitude 44, Pascal's Baguette and Bagel, Triple Z Roti, Agora Cafe, the BIA Office, Crossed Swords, Java Joe's.

The WTJHS has been delighted by the enthusiasm and encouragement with which this initiative has been received by the community. Through our partnership with the Junction Business Improvement Association, our preliminary enquires have received support from 15 businesses so far and we have healthy echoes returning, from near and far, in response to our call for artists to participate in this "Junction City" Centennial project. This underscores how well this project reflects the unique relationship between business and the arts for which the community has garnered a dynamic and vibrant reputation.

Thanks for your interest to those who have already agreed to participate and welcome to those just stepping on board. We will keep you posted as this project develops. The next issue of the *Leader and Recorder* will be feature an article about the history of the BIA including the individual businesses displaying the artworks so that the public can vote for between April 15th and the last day of the Arts Festival in September."