



ALICE RYCROFT

1914 – 2015

Alice Rycroft's life was devoted to providing opportunities for others to experience and develop in the arts.

Rycroft taught in Etobicoke for over twenty years, including twelve years as an art specialist with the Etobicoke and Toronto Boards of Education. In addition to her regular teaching duties, she often gave craft instruction to children in her home after school. She was president of the Mother's Study Group of Kingsway Baptist

Church and headed a craft group at the church for ten years. For twenty-five years, Rycroft organized and supervised Saturday morning art classes for children as a volunteer with the Etobicoke Art Group. She assisted with the inception of the Windsong Gallery with a particular emphasis on native arts. She was one of the founders of the Haliburton School of the Arts and volunteered to organize the classes.

For eight years, Rycroft volunteered at the Christie Park Nursing Home in Toronto. She started a newspaper for the home, and as editor, encouraged many of the residents to participate.

Rycroft was a member of The Etobicoke Quilters Group and the Association of Islington Miniaturists, and taught for both these groups on a volunteer basis. She was a member of many other art organizations including the Ontario Craft Council, the Ontario Society of Artists, and the World Craft Council. She was awarded a life membership with the Etobicoke Art Group.

Rycroft volunteered countless hours as a member of the Lyceum Club and Women's Art Association of Canada and served as Vice-President and honorary treasurer. One of the organization's main pillars was the provision of student scholarships for the National Ballet School, Ontario College of Art and the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music to assist students with their education in the arts. She was an active fundraiser for these scholarships, often making and selling her own creations.

Rycroft was active for twenty-five years on the Etobicoke City Hall Art Gallery Committee from its inception in 1976 and served as Chairperson for six years. She was also a member of the Etobicoke Municipal Arts Commission whose mandate was to advise Council on all matters relating to the arts. She also served on Etobicoke's Art Acquisition Committee where she advised on the care and acquisition of the city's fine art collection.

In 2006, Rycroft received the Outstanding Community Service Award from the Retired Teachers of Ontario. Working tirelessly as an artist and promoter of the arts throughout her life, Rycroft was viewed as a dedicated individual who stimulated cultural growth within Etobicoke.

Inducted into the Etobicoke Hall of Fame 1990