

LEGACY: The Artists of Killarney Provincial Park

Preface

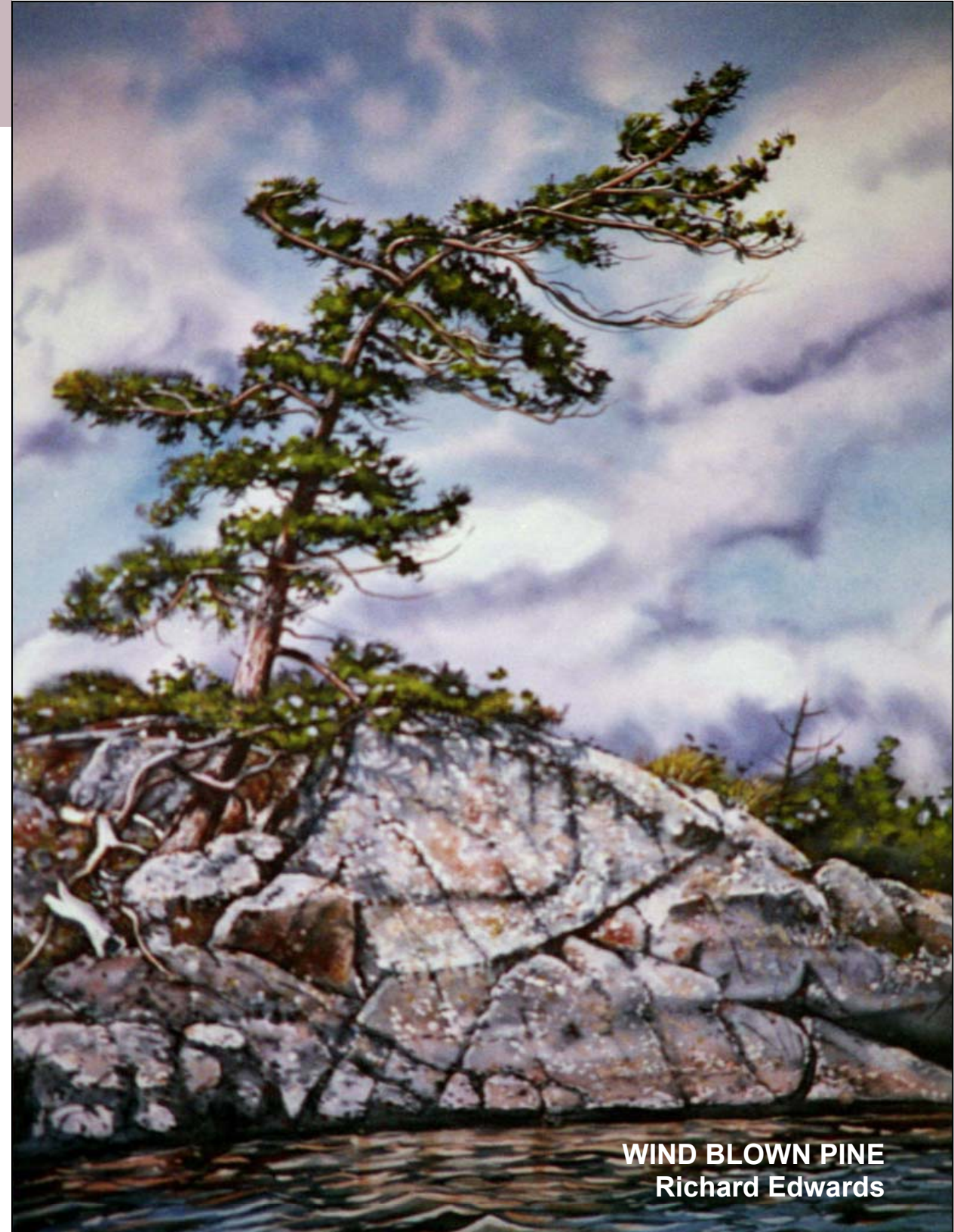
That the Group of Seven's influence on Canadian Art was not important will never be questioned. For the better part of the 20th century the Group's influence and images were dominant in Canadian minds. The Group's paintings encouraged Canadians to travel and to discover their northern landscape. Such was the effect of the Group of Seven's art on the Canadian psyche.

Ironically, it was a similar dominance of imagery that rallied the members of the Group of Seven to band together and to work tirelessly against the prevailing thought of their day. That they could ever have realized the effect that their dominance would have on Canadian Art long after their demise is debatable. The members of the Group, after all, were not starving artists as some would have us believe, but good businessmen and able spokespersons for themselves. Against this influence, fueled by an industry of protective curators and historians, contemporary Canadian landscape artists have struggled to be unique and to survive comparison to the Group of Seven.

Now, as we enter a new century, with the help of art enthusiasts, such as the Friends of Killarney Park, contemporary artists are being encouraged to return to the places that fired the minds and imaginations of the members of the Group of Seven. They knew, as do today's contemporary artists, that the true spirit of Canada dwells not in our crowded urban centers, but in our northern landscape.

The contemporary artists represented within the following pages are known, at some time in the art careers, to have been inspired by the northern landscape of Killarney Provincial Park. Whether their art is worthy to be archived within our National art museums is not a question for debate at this moment. What is important is that a record be made, and that the work of these artists be archived, to allow future generations the opportunity to enjoy the art of The Artists of Killarney Provincial Park.

Ernest Somers
March 2005



WIND BLOWN PINE
Richard Edwards