

*Claude Picard*

*A Biography*



From the age of 13, just after receiving a national award in a drawing competition, he received his first significant commissions in portrait painting.

Among his best portraits are those of Senators David Croit and Allister Grosart of Toronto, Ontario; A.N. Maclean of Saint John, N.B.; the former Lieutenant-Governor of N.B., Hon. Hédard J. Robichaud; Archbishop J.A. Plourde of Ottawa; architect Stanley Emmerson of Saint John, N.B.; Mrs. Wanda Lewellyn of Fredericton; Mr. Martin Légère of Caraquet, N.B.; Dr. Marguerite Michaud of Fredericton; the past presidents

and chancellors of the Université de Moncton. Also of note are his historical portraits at the Hartland Museum, the "Temple de la Renommée Sportive" in Edmundston, N.B., the Milk Marketing Hall of Fame in Sussex, N.B., and also at the Moncton, Cathedral. His paintings are on exhibition in many galleries including the National Library in Ottawa, the Beaverbrook Gallery in Fredericton (permanent collection), the Art Bank of New Brunswick, the Gallery of the Confederation Center in Charlottetown, P.E.I., the Canadian Senate in Ottawa, the New Brunswick Legislature, Chalmers Hospital, the Centre

Communautaire Français in Fredericton, and also at the headquarters of the F.C.C.F. in Manitoba.

His first art teacher was the renowned Edmundston sculptor, Dr P.C. Laporte. During his high school years, Claude took art lessons from the International Correspondence School (Scranton, PA. USA.). After completing his B.A. degree at the Université Saint-Louis in Edmundston, he went on a study tour in Europe, spending time in Italy, France and Spain from 1956 to 1959.

Later Mr. Picard created murals for the church in Lamèque, N.B. and for the N.B. Community College in Edmundston. In 1965, he was awarded a trophy for the best visual presentation of a Molière comedy at the N.B. Drama Festival in Fredericton. For Christmas in 1972, he created a nativity scene for the Edmundston Cathedral which continues to attract a great number of visitors every year. In 1985 at the request of the Edmundston City Council, Mr. Picard painted a mural commemorating the Madawaska Bicentennial; his painting still adorns the walls of the Council Chambers at the Edmundston City Hall. In 1987 after winning a

contest to illustrate the Deportation of the Acadians, Claude Picard was commissioned by Parks-Canada to paint six (6) historic scenes for the Memorial Church in Grand Pré, N.S.

For about 15 years, Mr. Picard taught art in Edmundston and in many towns in Maine, USA. He gave workshops and presentations on portrait painting on two television channels (CBC in English and Radio Canada in French), at the Centre Culturel in Rivière-du-Loup, at the Arts & Crafts Festival in Presque Isle, Maine, at the "Festival des Métiers d'Art" in Campbellton, N.B. and at the Francophone festival in Cape St. George, Newfoundland. In October 1982, he became a recipient of a Canada Arts Council Scholarship.

His favourite themes are scenes in nature such as the forest, the farm, water streams, the sea and, of course, the portrait.

Mr. Picard is married to Jeanne Soucy and is the father of two daughters. He resides at 227, rue Principale, Saint Basile, N.B. (5 miles or 8 km. south-east of Edmundston).