

13

Lysynski, Heather

From: O'Neil Funeral Home
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 2:05 PM
To: Lysynski, Heather
Subject:

6th February 2012

Topic:
Historical Panels at the EMD Plant in London, ON

Painted by Selwyn Dewdney circa 1953-54

Artist of National importance with deep London roots - see attached Wikipedia page

Depict Canadian industry and the average Canadian working man of the 1950s

Thought to be 5 panels, perhaps 4 foot by 8 foot, attached to the walls.

Paintings are property of Caterpillar, but in my opinion, are of significant historical importance and cultural value on a national scale, due to the artist who created the works, the international reputation of the EMD plant and its products, and as a rare example of a period depiction of heavy Canadian industry, a subject that is not very common among artists of this time period or often seen in Canadian art galleries.

I therefore ask the city of London, if possible, to take the following actions:

- 1) Ascertain if the paintings/panels still exist;
- 2) Determine their condition;
- 3) Try to make sure that the paintings / panels are not damaged, stolen or destroyed in the shutdown of the EMD plant, and if possible, take measures to make sure they do not leave Canadian soil, even if this requires having either the Provincial or Federal governments declare them items of national historic and cultural significance.

Yours

Joseph G O'Neil
Vice Chair, LACH