



BRENTWOOD BAY
LODGE & SPA

THE VICTORIA TIMES - COLONIST

JUNE 2004

Local works focus of lodge's decor

'On the Arts' by Robert Amos

Local artists and artisans have been employed to create a unique ambience throughout Brentwood Bay Lodge & Spa, which just opened on the site of the old Brentwood Bay Inn, next to where the Mill Bay Ferry lands in Saanich. Paintings of arbutus trees by Philip Mix are a keynote of the decor.

The post-and beam style lodge with 33 oceanfront suites, is a discreet and sensitive design by architect Ron Lea of Vancouver, tucked into the shoreline and respecting the huge trees all around.

Throughout the resort, paint colours and finishes have been chosen with unusual discernment by Sandy Nygaard.

Woodworkers Joseph Gelinis and Sandra Carr have worked for the last year in their Mill Bay workshop to create superb furnishing for all 33 suites and the public areas. Working with pale blonde ash wood, they have designed and crafted bedframes and headboards, armoires, shutters, tables, trays candleholders and even the little shelves that hold custom ceramic vases by Cathi Jefferson. For the reception area, Carr & Gelinis made tables from huge bulks of timbers, mortised together with exposed joinery of contrasting hardwoods.

In the spa, exquisite bottle for perfumes and unguents have been provided by Starfish Glassworks.

Resident curator Leanne Cadden, who a year ago closed her own lower Yates Street gallery when she displayed her own paintings exclusively, shows a talent for business and a discerning eye. She searches out artists she wants, selects each piece for the lodge and then presents it to the committee of owners. The result is a considered presentation of local talent.

Large canvases by Robert Genn and his daughter Sara, Galen Davison and



POET'S BLUFF BY PHILIP MIX

Christine Reimer set the mood. A showcase of fine work in gold, silver, copper and argyllite by Ron Wilson present native heritage in a most refined manner. Charles Elliot, a member of the Tsartlip Nation, is represented by two carvings, each two metres high.

Wood turning, stone carving and ceramics for sale to guests also enrich the atmosphere of this lavish country lodge. The small figurative sculptures by Kobita Sen have never looked better. With guidance, this can be a win-win situation.

The major presence in the lobby, lounge halls and boardroom is the work of Philip Mix, who has supported himself for years as a restorer of paintings, in particular cleaning the ceiling murals in the drawing room of Craigdarroch Castle for the past

few summers. With encouragement from the Caswell-Lawrence Gallery and then the Avenue Gallery, Mix's own canvases have become large and confident. In the Brentwood Bay Lodge lounge, you'll see a triptych of arbutus trees on the shores of what looks like Saanich Inlet. These are compositions reminiscent of Lawren Harris's North Shore of Lake Superior.

Mix's tress convey the spirit more than the actuality of an arbutus. Hew paints with a broad brush in mosaics of colour, layering in rich patches of pigment.

Sunset colours across the background of the lobby paintings perfectly complement the lodge's decor.

Excerpts from Times-Colonist, On the Arts by Robert Amos, June 2004