Archibald Lampman Local History resources at the Cobourg Public Library

"I heard the robin singing sweet, The sparrow piping silverly, The thrushes at the forest's hem, And as I went I sang with them."

Excerpt from "After the Rain"





Source: https://www.britannica.com/biography/ Archibald-Lampman

Archibald Lampman's family moved to Gore's Landing (pop.

500) when he was six years old, and his father was appointed rector of the Anglican Church there. Young Archibald "had at his disposal at least two libraries, his father's and Mr. Barron's (teacher), and it is plain that he made use of them and started one of his own." The family were acquainted with sisters Catharine Parr Traill and Susanna Moodie. "Life beside a real lake on which one could sail in boats and perhaps be permitted to catch fish" was appealing to Archibald and his sister, Annie Margaret. "He had a fancy for clocks, and no visit was complete unless he had been shown the family timepiece."

Although not one of his poems can claim Rice Lake as its inspiration, it was his closest friend, poet Duncan Campbell Scott, who said, "To write verses was the one great delight of his life. Everything in his world had reference to poetry."

In the 1870's, the Lampmans moved to Cobourg when his father became curate of St. Peter's Anglican Church, and lived across the street in a red brick house, No. 37. The children were home-schooled. At age 13, Archibald entered Cobourg Collegiate Institute. At 15, he attended Trinity College in Port Hope.

"The stars that singly, then in flocks appear,

Like jets of silver from the violet dome,

So wonderful, so many and so near, And then the golden moon to light me home, The crunching snowshoes and the stinging air, And silence, frost and beauty everywhere."

Excerpt from "Winter Uplands"

(Quotes within the article are all from Resource # 1.)

Resources available in our Local History Room:

- 1. "Archibald Lampman, Canadian Poet of Nature", by Carl Y. Connor (REF 811.4 Con LH)
- 2. "Archibald Lampman", by L. R. Early (REF 811.4 Ear LH)
- 3. "Lampman's Sonnets. Complete Sonnets of Archibald Lampman" (LA 819.14 LAM)
- 4. "Lampman's Kate, late love poems of Archibald Lampman, 1887-1897" (LA 819.14 LAM)
- 5. "Lyrics of Earth: sonnets and ballads" (LA 819.1 LAM
- 6. "The Poems of Archibald Lampman" (Rare Book, 1900) (LA 819.1 LAM)
- 7. "The Collected Works of Archibald Lampman" (LA 819.1 LAM) (Resource # 7 is also a circulating copy, in addition to the local author copy.)