

Blackwood exhibit all about location

Mississauga News

By Chris Clay

A derelict building at University of Toronto Mississauga has found new life as part of an art exhibit.

Blackwood Gallery hosted an opening last night for the Christine Swintak and Don Miller exhibit, *Location! Location! Location!* It continues at the gallery until March 7.

The exhibit centres around a 19th-century building located on campus called Thomas Cottage. The cottage, located between the South Building and Oscar Peterson Hall, actually preceded UTM and has served several functions over the years including a student residency and, most recently, a storage shed.

The artists moved the cottage, which was slated to be destroyed to make room for further growth at the university, by hand into the gallery. They slowly rebuilt the dilapidated cottage inside Blackwood.

"Instead of the cottage being there one minute and the next it's gone, we wanted to give the experience of the whole process," said Miller.

"The cottage isn't a fantastical structure; it's nice enough," added Swintak. "We're not saving it because it's beautiful, we're saving it for the sake of the attempt."

Artist material describing the exhibit states that, "the layered histories of the cottage, from the banal to the apocryphal, are present in both gallery spaces. The installation presents a portal to a pastoral past, but also reflects its university-based gallery setting as a white, cubed cog in the knowledge industry."

Both the cottage and its rebuilt version in the gallery will be on display. The artists have painted all the new cottage material a bright green.

The gallery hosts a tour of the cottage with Art Gallery of Ontario associate curator Michelle Jacques serving as guide. It takes place March 1, from 2-4 p.m.

When the exhibition ends, the cottage will be rebuilt at a new site.

cclay@mississauga.net



Looking around

Staff photo by Rob Beintema

LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION!, a collaborative artwork involving the moving of a part of the Thomas Cottage to the Blackwood Gallery at UTM, officially opened last night. One of the co-artists, Christine Swintak, points out a detail of the display.

3/3

