Tom Thomson is considered one of the most important and influential early Canadian artists. Together with members of the Group of Seven, he created a distinct approach to portraying rugged Canadian landscapes.

Tom Thomson died mysteriously at the age of 39 while canoeing. He founded the Group of Seven, but was not a member. It started three years after his death, by his friends. He grew up in Leith, Ontario and is buried there now.

The Tom Thompson Art Gallery is located beside the Owen Sound Public Library.