



Media Release

Construction fencing hosts outdoor art exhibition

July 9, 2020 – Construction fencing in downtown Midland now boasts a collection of original paintings created by 39 Simcoe County artists.

The 2020 King Street Community Art Project includes 2' x 2' paintings by artists from Midland, Penetanguishene, Tay, Tiny, Beausoleil First Nation, Orillia, Midhurst and Innisfil, ranging in age from 13 to some in their seventies.

The five blocks of Midland's downtown core are in the middle of a rejuvenation project that includes new sanitary and storm systems, a new watermain, plus new streetscaping features. The fencing surrounding the construction work is now doubling as exhibition space.

"The fencing provided us with the perfect opportunity to create an outdoor art gallery," said Karen Mealing, Cultural Development Coordinator with the Town of Midland. "The goal of the project was to beautify the downtown core during the King St. Rejuvenation Project and welcome shoppers back as stores and businesses begin to re-open and continue to provide curbside pick up."

The concept for the Town of Midland project was developed during the pandemic, with a call for artists going out in late May. Artists were given only a couple of weeks in June to complete their paintings before they were installed on July 2.

"The paintings showcase the amazing talent that we have in our area and we thank all of the participating artists," said Mayor Stewart Strathearn. "Given the long history of creativity and artistry in Midland, and with the current restrictions on accessing indoor spaces, the Town is very excited for this opportunity to bring art outdoors for our residents to enjoy."

The paintings will be on display until the construction fencing remains on King St. While the original intent was for a temporary art project, some panels may find a permanent home at the Harbour office at the Town Dock.

The complete collection of paintings, with artists' names, is available at: <https://www.midland.ca/Pages/King-Street-Community-Art-Project.aspx>



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