

Midland Mural and Public Art Guide



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About The Murals

LOCATIONS

1. Huron Native and Jesuit Priest at Sainte-Marie

Measuring 80 feet by 250 feet, this is the largest historical outdoor mural in North America. It depicts a Jesuit Priest and a Wendat gazing from a hilltop over the Wye Valley and into the nearby village of Sainte-Marie as it appeared in 1640. *Fred Lenz, Scott Frandsen, Michelle Van Maurik, Robert Lenz, Stephen Lenz, 1991.*

2. Great Lakes Cruises

These two ships belonged to the Detroit-based Georgian Bay Lines. They would transport passengers from cities to quiet, picturesque waters. *Fred Lenz.*

3. Midland Harbour and Pier

View the harbour and pier as it was in the 1900's. *Fred Lenz.*

4. Winter at the Harbour

A recent mural and the first featuring a winter scene, is of the Midland Harbour in the 1920's and 30's. Workhorses were used to break the ice so that ships could come closer to shore. *Fred Lenz.*

5. Rotary Mural

A collage of Midland area tourist attractions. In honour of the late Fred Lenz, who painted the original murals in 1994, he can be seen painting in the bottom left corner. *Ruth Hurdle.*

6. Runners of the Woods

See fur traders working with the Huron. *Fred Lenz, 1998.*

7. The Playfair Preston Company - Interior

Take a journey to the past when a general store and wholesale business operated on the very site of this mural from 1895 into the early 1950's. *Fred Lenz, 1994.*

8. The Playfair Preston Company - Exterior

This mural shows what this building looked like in the early 1920's. A portion of the third storey collapsed in 1928 during the busy Christmas season and was removed after World War II. *Fred Lenz, 1994*

9. Brébeuf Lighthouse

Built in the 1900's to help guide ships on course from Giant's Tomb to the channel serving Midland Bay. *Paul Adamson, Norm Hawley, Dave Templeton Jr., 1999.*

10. Butcher Shop

Appropriately located on the Meatland storefront, this mural shows what a 1900's butcher shop looked like. *Fred Lenz, 1996.*

11. Livery Stables

A 20th Century livery stable during the introduction of the automobile. *Fred Lenz, 1996.*

12. View of Midland Harbour

This painting is based on a photograph taken by J.W. Bald in the early 1900's and reveals how much residents' lives centred on Midland Harbour. Since it was situated at the southern end of Georgian Bay, it was predicted that Midland would become the "Chicago of the North". *Fred Lenz, 1997.*

13. Woolen Mill

A window back in time showing a woman working on an early sewing machine across from the Woolen Mill Store. *Fred Lenz, 1997.*

14. Midland Railway Corporation - Station

The station, seen in its past glory, opened in 1879 and was in existence until 1998. *Fred Lenz, 1995.*

15. Midland Railway Corporation - Engine House/Roundhouse

Displayed here are workers repositioning the turntable to allow a locomotive to leave the yard. *Fred Lenz, 1995.*

16. Midland Post Office and Postmaster

This mural was created to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Midland Post Office. The postage stamp in the image displays Midland in the era of 1885. The gentleman in this mural is Tomas Gladstone, Midland's first postmaster. *Fred Lenz, 1997.*

17. The Cleaners

The current French's Dry Cleaners location is where you will find a mural which depicts the cleaners in the early 1920's. The truck is being loaded with clean clothes for delivery. *Fred Lenz, 1996.*

18. Rediscovery of Sainte-Marie

Depicts the excavation of the southwest bastion of the Huron settlement. Based on an 1885 sketch by Father Felix Martin, it was painted by Fred Lenz's son, Stephen Lenz, at the age of 14. *1996.*

19. Druggist/Apothecary

Look up to the second storey and into an apothecary shop of yesteryear where druggists acted as chemists by mixing their own cures as outlined by a physician. *Fred Lenz, 1992.*

20. Amnesty International: Article 12

Collaboration as part of Amnesty International's Project: Urban Canvas between mural artist Ruth Hurdle and youth from Quest Art School + Gallery's teen Art Locker program in 2015. The mural represents "privacy" as one of the Amnesty's 30 declarations of human rights.

21. Bourgeois Motors Dealership Through the Years

This image outlines the history of Bourgeois Motors from its beginning as a garage and gas station to its evolution into a successful Ford dealership. It is found on the back of the building that was once the dealership. *Fred Lenz, 1997.*

22. Return of the Trumpeter Swans

A mural celebrating the return of this nearly extinct native species which has been reintroduced at the Wye Marsh National Wildlife Area, where they can be seen today. A Trumpeter Swan sculpture with a 25-foot wingspan is also found at the Town Dock. *Fred Lenz, 1992.*

23. James Playfair

James Playfair, who was a successful lumberman, turned to shipping in 1886. In 1915, his Midland Shipbuilding Company started to build freighters like those seen in this mural. *Fred Lenz, 1896.*

24. The Water Fountain

This painting presents the same corner as it would have looked in the 1920's. *Fred Lenz, 1997.*

25. H.M. Schooner Bee

The original H.M. Schooner Bee was built in 1817 and sailed until 1831. The replica Bee is currently moored at Discovery Harbour in Penetanguishene. *Dan Sawatzky, 1991.*

26. Playfair Lumber Mill in 1890

A peek back at the first lumber mill in the area. It was built in 1871 and operated profitably until it was destroyed by a fire in 1916. *Dan Sawatzky, 1990.*

27. Local Photographers

This mural commemorates two famous photographers who had a vital role in recording the history of Midland. Budd Watson is known for his photos of Georgian Bay. Many of the murals are based on photos by J.W. Bald from the late 1800's and early 1900's. *Fred Lenz, 1997.*

28. S.S. Lemoyne

This ship was built by the Midland Shipbuilding Company in 1926. It is measured as 663 feet long, 70 feet wide and 29 feet deep. It was the largest bulk carrier on the Great Lakes until the 1950's and held cargo records for coal, ore and grain. Her final voyage was in 1968. *Fred Lenz, 1996.*

29. Fishing in Midland Harbour

A boy fishes while his dog is looking onward. A lot of murals done by Fred Lenz have dogs or cats to showcase his love for those animals. *Fred Lenz, 1995.*

30. The Wye Marsh

Gaze upwards at the wide variety of birds and other wildlife found at the Wye Marsh. Martyrs' Shrine is visible in the background. *Fred Lenz, 1995.*

31. Canadian Guides

A representation of the Girl Guides of Canada and Canadian Guiding. The pictures on the border outline tasks the Girl Guides did. *Fred Lenz, 1996.*

32A. Community Bee City Mural

This is one of two murals commissioned to celebrate this achievement and residents participated in the creation of this mural. *Shandelle Page McCurdie, 2021.*

32B. From Above We Are All Connected

This aerial view of the Town of Midland landscape was commissioned as part of a FedDev grant and is located along the Trans Canada Trail. *Camille Myles, 2022.*

33A. Midland Dock

This 4'x4' painting celebrates the ever-changing beauty of Georgian Bay. *Marlene Bulas, 2020.*

33B. Ontario's Best Butter Tart Festival

This 4'x4' painting depicts Ontario's Best Butter Tart Festival, the original and largest butter tart festival in Canada. *Liz Lasky, 2020.*

34A. Midland Elevators

This 4'x4' painting depicts the Aberdeen, Simcoe, Tiffin and Midland Elevators that once dominated Midland's waterfront. The Midland Elevator is still standing and functional. *Robert Walker 2020.*

34B. Family and Friends at the Cottage

For this 4x4' painting, the artist gained inspiration from a family snapshot of his great aunt and uncle, Dr. and Mrs. F.N.G. Starr and friends at their Georgian Bay cottage, circa 1920. *Ross Skoggard, 2020.*

35. Pine Landing

Josee Hartnick, 2023.

36. Portals into the Heart of Georgian Bay

Located inside laundry room at Harbour. Artist *Eden Watt of Future Day, 2023*. These panels feature iconic images of the Town of Midland as viewed through the porthole of a tugboat. 2023.

37. Harbour Office Murals

Reel Fun – artist *Charlotte Sprague*, 2021. This 4'x4' mural celebrated a favourite Georgian Bay activity – fishing! • The Dawn Light – artist *Canyon Cairns*, 2021 • Untitled- *Janet Phillips*, 2020.

38. Butter Tart Lane & Wendake Way Mini Murals

In 2020, the Town of Midland commissioned artists throughout Simcoe County to paint 2'x2' mini murals that would be attached to the construction fencing while the King Street Rejuvenation Project took place. The goal was to create an outdoor art gallery while everything was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also encourage a safe, outdoor activity while drawing visitors to the downtown to support local businesses. The project was a success and in 2021, the Town commissioned additional 2'x2' mini murals which have since been installed in Butter Tart Lane and Wendake Way, with two (*) being added to the exterior of the Harbour Office. 2022.

42. Our Colourful Community

Created during the inaugural Midland Mural Festival and designed by the artist, this community painted mural captures the spirit of the land and water. Brushstrokes and colour weave together the essence of Midland. The mural reflects the rugged shorelines, windswept pines, outdoor activities, as well as the quiet presence of some of the creatures that define Midland's natural beauty. *Shandelle Paive McCurdie, 2024.*

43. The Great Blue Heron

Calling the scenic coasts of Georgian Bay its home, the majestic Great Blue Heron can be an inspiration to pause, reflect, and find harmony. This vibrant mosaic mural was brought to life through the artist's vision, with collective efforts of the Midland community. Each tile contributes to the story, celebrating both the beauty of the bird and the spirit of collaboration that made this artwork possible.

Alex Kostecka-Silva 2024.



Sculptures & More!

39. Trumpeter Swan Sculpture

Erected in October 2001 and created by Ron Hunt to commemorate the reintroduction of Trumpeter Swans at Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre.

40. Sown

Sown honours the unsung heroes who shaped our community. It reflects on a flawed past while celebrating new growth. The five pillars symbolize our industrial roots, the hands that built us, and the five local bays, supporting a sapling emerging from a reflective seed pod, representing our future. *Holly Archer and Camille Miles, 2021.*

41. Birth of a Naww

Concept by Gordon Lago, fabricated by Lafontaine Iron Werks, 2022.

43. Downtown Power Pedestals and Cabinets

Downtown Power Pedestals and Cabinets
In 2022, the Town of Midland worked with elementary and secondary schools, as well as not-for-profit organizations serving the youth in our community, to create artwork to be wrapped on the power pedestal and cabinets in the downtown. With so many historical murals located within the downtown, this project juxtaposed the past, with artwork created by the youth, and the future of our community.

Locations:

- 2 @ King St. & Bayshore Dr. (North-East Side) - Created by students at Monsignor Castex 2022.
- King St. @ Chamber of Commerce - Created by Bayview Public School student Haley Whitten 2022.
- King & Dominion Ave (North Side) - Created by Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe 2022.
- King & Dominion Ave (South Side) - Created by students at Georgian Bay District Secondary School 2022.
- King & Hugel (North Side) - "Pop Tarts" Created by students at Georgian Bay District Secondary School 2022.
- King & Hugel (South Side) - Created by students at Huron Park Public School 2022.
- King & Elizabeth (North Side) - Created by students at Sacred Heart 2022.
- King & Elizabeth (South Side) - Created by students at St. Theresa's High School 2022.
- King Street (Near Brokerlink) - Created by Quest Art School & Gallery 2022.
- 2 @ King St. & Yonge St. - Created by students at Bayview Public School 2022.
- Hugel Ave and Penetanguishene Road (South Side) - "Bees and Butter Tarts" by Alex Kostecka-Silva 2022.
- Hugel Ave and Woodland Dr. (North Side) "Rib Fest" by students at Georgian Bay Secondary School 2022.
- Hugel Ave and Eight St. (North Side) - by Natalie Very B. 2023.
- Hugel Ave and First St. (North Side) - by Shandelle Paige McCurdie 2023.
- Yonge St. and Simcoe St. (North Side) - by Hilary Slater 2023.
- King St. and Ellen St. (North Side) - by Future Day 2023.
- 2 @ Harbour on North Pier - by Shandelle Paige McCurdie (fish) and Alex Kostecka-Silva (Serenity as Sunset) 2023.

Bee City Mural @ Little Lake Park

Located at the entrance to Little Lake Park off of King St. near Huronia Museum. Led by the County of Simcoe - Health and Emergency Services. Painted by seniors and local youth, 2021. The Town of Midland became a Bee City as part of the municipality's commitment to protecting pollinators and providing pollinator habitat. This is one of two murals commissioned to celebrate this achievement.

Little Lake Park Mural

Located at the entrance to Little Lake Park off of King St. near Huronia Museum. This mural depicts the Town of Midland's signature park being enjoyed by residents and visitors. *Natalie Very B., 2023.*

Shipping Container At Midland Bay Landing

The Midland Bay Landing promenade acts as a satellite location for visiting cruise ships. As part of a FedDev grant, the Town installed a sea container as an interim reception area and commissioned this landscape of the waterfront to greet visitors by both water and land. *Alex Kostecka-Silva, 2022.*

Murals Not Listed On Map

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with the Midland Mural Festival

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