

REPORT OF THE ARTS & CULTURE WORKING COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER, 2022

Committee Members: Linda Finn, Jacque Grummett, Julie Merk, Barb Hukezalie, Nancy Jo Wannan, Prisca Campbell

The Working Committee has met three times to develop a 5-year plan for public art in Elliot Lake. We investigated themes, inventory of art already in the Elliot Lake, possible sites and costs for various projects.

OVERALL THEME

In our search for a unifying theme that allows for all different media and approaches, we decided to draw upon our local assets and resources, namely our natural resources: rocks, trees, water, wildlife and the people in our community.

The theme of “Woodlands.” was suggested as the woodlands pre-date our uranium heritage and their longevity will continue long after us. *Woodlands* is vague enough to be open to multiple interpretations—wildlife, natural resources, history, as well as recreational activities such as hiking, snowmobiling and canoeing.

INVENTORY of Public Art presently in Elliot Lake

1. Uranium Symbol- metal sculpture designed and built by former mine employees
2. The Miner – large metal sculpture designed and created by artist Dave Hind (now living in Brantford), who worked on the staff at the former WMA.
3. Denison Doors - metal doors and bas relief side panels from Denison Mines
4. Haven – a large papier maché sculpture by Métis artist, Francine Noiseux, now living in North Bay
5. Memories of Elliot Lake – Wood carving made up of multiple panels by local woodcarvers
6. The Golden North – indoor mural by Sharon Cousineau (in storage)
7. Rebirth & Untitled – 2 indoor murals by indigenous artist Steve Hearn, located in ELNOS Building stairwells
8. The New Dawn of Time – indoor mural by indigenous Blind River artist Conrad Bobiwash (in storage)
9. Salute to the Miner – large oil painting by Dennis Gagnon, located in Museum office in Collins Hall
10. Quilts – 3 Commemorative Quilts in Museum Collection Storage
11. Miners’ Memorial Park – sculptures designed by Laura Brown Breetvelt
12. Founding Fathers – mural by EL artist Susan Krupp, north side of Elliot Lake Meats & Deli
13. The Staking Bee - mural by EL artist Susan Krupp, south side of Seidel’s Furniture Store
14. Story in Stone – mural by EL artist Linda Finn on north side of Children’s Aid Building

15. What is the North to Me? – mural by EL artist Linda Duke, on south side of Seidel's Furniture
16. Indoor Mural by Blind River artist Suzanne Kearns, located in Collins Hall
17. Indoor Mural by Blind River artist Francois Lemieux, located in Collins Hall
18. Indoor mural by artist Elaine Gregory, formerly of Elliot Lake, located in Collins Hall
19. Indoor mural by Spanish artist Carmen Cotnoir located in Collins Hall
20. The Miner – community mural art project, located in Collins Hall
21. Indoor mural by renowned Canadian artist Gordon Rayner, located in Ecole Georges Vanier
22. Banners from 3 different Downtown Banner Projects (much faded from direct sunlight)
23. Viola Moody Award Winners, located in ELSS

An inventory of Downtown Art spaces was done by Prisca, plus a comprehensive report of the Horne Lake Trail. (see attached documents)

LOCAL ASSETS

- Beautiful landscape (Jewel in the Wilderness)
- Natural resources of water, rocks, trees, wildlife
- 2 beautiful beaches
- Lookout Tower
- Ski hill
- Trails (hiking, snowmobiling, ATV, cycling, X-country skiing)
- Canoe Routes
- Boat Launches
- Westview Park
- Mississagi Provincial Park
- Unique geology

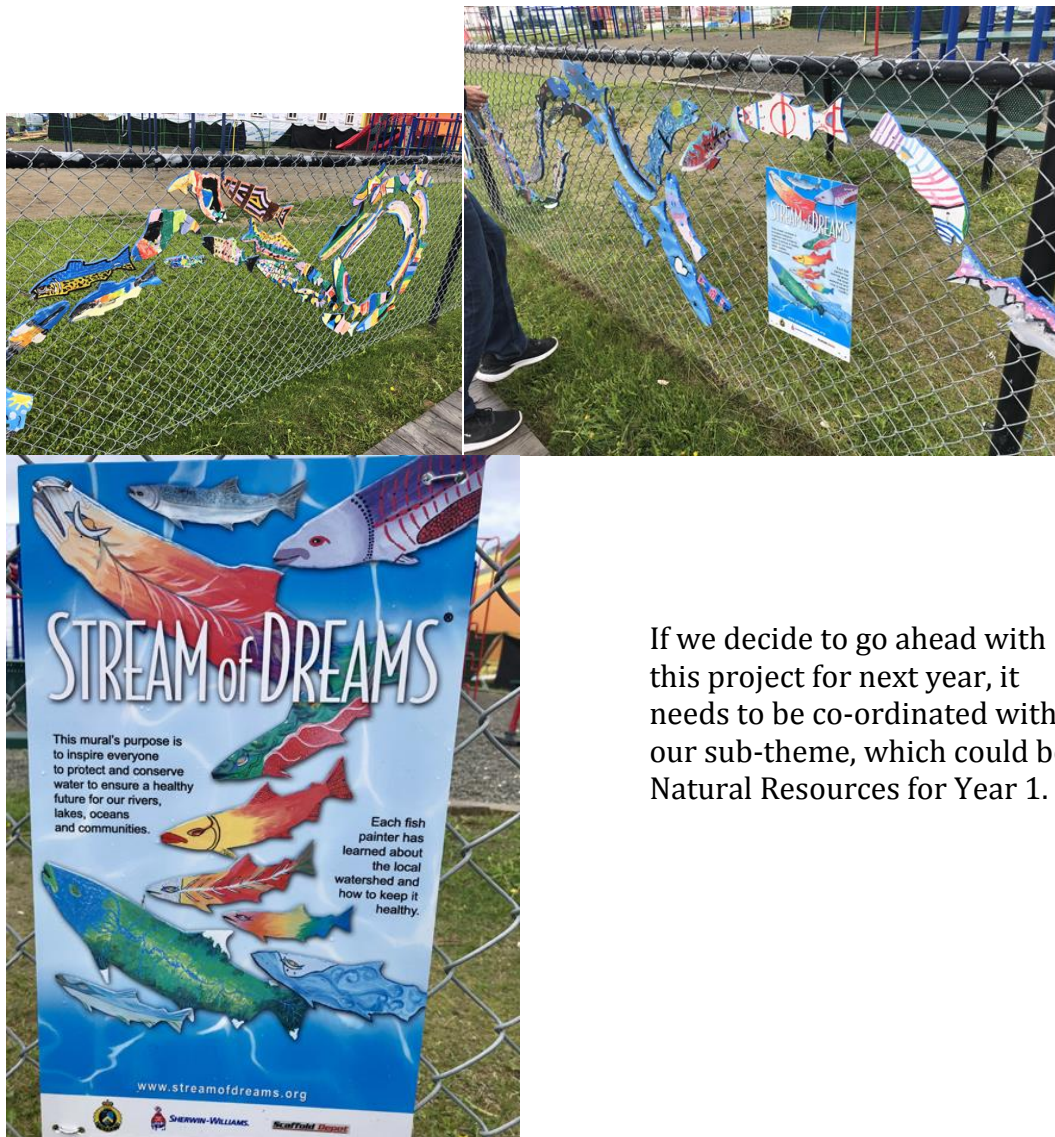
LOCAL RESOURCES

- Repository of knowledge in our residents
- Public Library
- MUSEUM (heritage)
- ARIEL (Arts Council)
- ARTS CLUB (local artists and craftspeople)
- ARTS on the TRAIL (inactive, but expected to resume in 2023)
- Writer's Group (inactive?)
- ELATE community theatre group
- STAGE DOOR players (lip sync music theatre)
- Historical Society
- Quilt Guild (active members)
- Entertainment Series (on pause, due to Covid)
- Local musicians
- French Golden Age Club
- Farmer's Market (local food and crafts)
- Service Clubs (Lions & Rotary)

PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR 2023

1. *Stream of Dreams (Fish on Fences)* is an award winning environmental education and community art program that originated in B.C. Through this project, communities discover their local watershed so that youth and the community become stewards for fish and all creatures. In the process, every child or participant is given a wooden blank fish to paint or embellish. The fish are attached to fences outside of each school with an explanatory sign. We thought a similar project would work very well in Elliot Lake and the stone face on the Foodland Parking Lot would be an excellent place to install such a project from all the schools, creating a large stream of fish against the rock face. If this installation not possible, then we would consider using fences at each of the schools.

<https://www.streamofdreams.org/>



If we decide to go ahead with this project for next year, it needs to be co-ordinated with our sub-theme, which could be Natural Resources for Year 1.

2. HEAD IN THE HOLE

We felt that this would be an easy thing to do for next summer. Pick some locations around town and send out a Call for Entry for people to design and paint. Would be relatively inexpensive to produce and not as time-consuming to paint as a huge mural. Because they are freestanding, they could be moved to different locations, depending on the need.



3. Interactive ELLIOT LAKE SCULPTURE

The committee believes it would be prudent to kick-off the project with a City commissioned piece. A recommendation is a letter structure spelling Elliot Lake, where the “i” is missing, inviting visitors to replace this letter with themselves. This structure could be placed strategically somewhere, such as Spruce Beach or another much-visited site.



A large heart sculpture would also invite people to photograph a favourite spot, but would not interfere with the view.



We are still waiting for quotes for these types of sculpture from Laird Signs.

Large fiberglass bear sculptures were also investigated, at a cost of \$3000 each. However, this might be realized through sponsorships.



- Our next step is to apply to the city for \$2499 to get the “Head in the Hole” project started in January with a Call for Entry. At a cost of approximately \$70 for a piece of 4 X 8 plywood, we would also need to pay a woodworker to reinforce each Head in the Hole for safety. Deadline to apply is Nov. 30, 2022.