

Seven Hearts for Lakeshore

Artist Statements

(In the order that they appear on the fence from the road, left to right)

What started out as a light, whimsical feel-good project turned into a project of hope, remembrance and reflection. Renee Marentette proposed the fence art idea to the Arts Advisory Committee, Municipality of Lakeshore in March of 2020 at the start of the pandemic. The Arts Advisory Committee embraced the idea and offered to participate in the project. To assist with their design each person was asked to consider what gives them hope, or was important to them during the pandemic. Using the template of a heart, each artist brought in their unique ideas and materials, and environmental awareness to create the **Seven Hearts for Lakeshore** installation at Optimist Park.



Photo: Laurie D'Alessandro

Seven Hearts for Lakeshore installation at Optimist Park, Lakeshore, Ontario

1. **Joyful Heart**

Renee Marentette, Arts Advisory Committee, Municipality of Lakeshore, retired

I chose to use bright and joyful yarn in a cross-stitch pattern simply because it brings me joy. My intention in this project was to inspire the public to respond to new ways of seeing familiar places, to enhance our relationships with spaces we share and to bring joy & hope after such a long and difficult winter. I have been reminded by a dear friend to accept all invitations to joy! Great advice at such a challenging time in history. I invite you to find joy from this installation and I hope for a healthier future.



Photo: Laurie D'Alessandro



Photo: Laurie D'Alessandro

2. *Lighthouse*

Kelsey Santarossa, Ward 3, Councillor, Municipality of Lakeshore

I have chosen to use plastic bags as my inspiration, giving life to something that typically, sits at home unwanted, and but literally carried weight.

There are two reasons that I used the lighthouse. It is, of course, a recognizable symbol for Lakeshore, but also a message for all of us that there will be light in the darkness at the end of all of this, and that it is always far closer to home than we might imagine.



Photo: Laurie D'Alessandro



Photo: Renee Marentette
Councillor Kelsey Santarossa installing
Lighthouse

2. *Black Emoji Heart*

Melisa Fontana, Arts Advisory Committee, Municipality of Lakeshore, Member

The principal difference between past pandemics and COVID-19, is in the connections we have formed with, and through, technology. I chose to use a black heart emoji, as it universally communicates both sorrow and love, digitally. The red crosses on the heart represent medical professionals, and the cross-stitch pattern in which they are placed symbolizes the elderly. Both groups have been most impacted by the pandemic, and this portion of the work is meant to honour their sacrifices. Families who desire safety, security and the freedom to be mobile again, are shown through the use of black seatbelt material.

Finally, the work also includes several QR codes integrated into the design. The QR codes are interactive, allowing passersby to access popular music about hope. These codes demonstrate that despite the inanimate reputation of technology, it is very much a source of connection and hope, and reveals humanity's steadfast ability to cope and adapt through adversity.



Photo: Laurie D'Alessandro

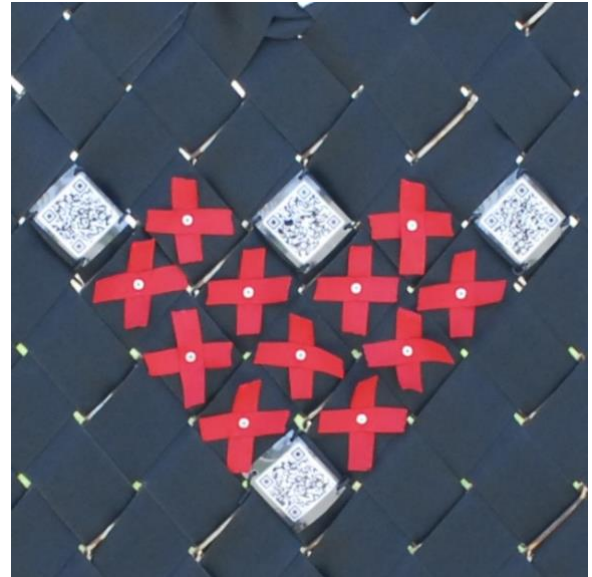


Photo: Laurie D'Alessandro



Melisa Fontana installing *Black Emoji Heart*

Photo: Laurie D'Alessandro

3. **Beer Can Butterfly**

Melanie Masse, Arts Advisory Committee, Municipality of Lakeshore, Member

I used aluminum cans to signify strength, and because of their infinitely recyclable qualities. This shows a change in social behaviour conventions and introduces a theme of longevity. If COVID-19 has led to one conclusion it is just how quickly the world can change in such a small time-frame.

Even though COVID-19 has brought sorrow to many, I want to highlight how it has resulted in positive outcomes aligned with the House of Commons declaration of a National Climate Emergency in 2019. In April 2020, the Global Carbon Project found that daily CO² emissions were down 17%, which is the biggest decline since World War II. Unfortunately, some of this was due to job loss, but some was due to a shift in tides: employees working from home, mass production slowing (a bit). Despite hard times, the pandemic has highlighted stepping stones we can take to help fulfill our Paris Accord Agreement deadlines if we chose to learn and evolve.

I chose to use beer cans with visible logos to echo the campaign encouraged throughout the pandemic: supporting local. The markings on the monarch butterfly design replicate a peace sign, as a symbol of finding peace in simpler things. From gardening to baking, many used the opportunity to slow down and reconnect with nature, family and friends, from afar. By focusing on self-care they are choosing to grow, to be more mindful and to re-think our necessities.

The pattern of the monarch means a future of transformation; and reflection. As some may know, the decline of monarchs was on the rise due to removal of milkweed. With the right choices, we too, can emerge from the pandemic transformed.



Photo: Laurie D'Alessandro

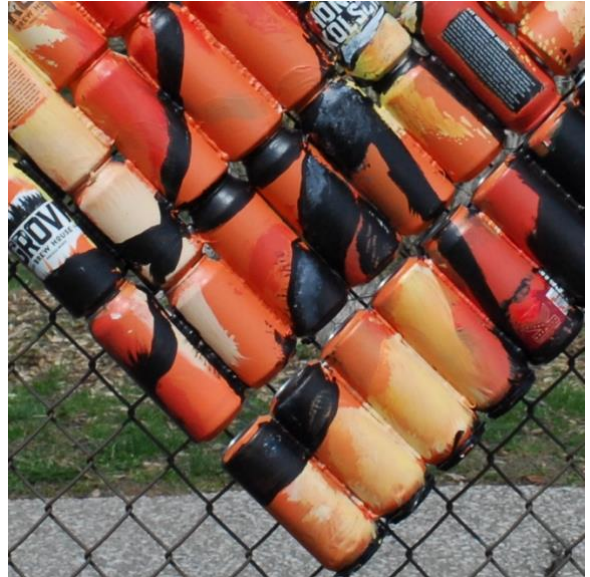


Photo: Laurie D'Alessandro

4. *Red Heart*

Linda McKinlay, Ward 6 Councillor, Municipality of Lakeshore

When I chose to use recycled water bottles, painted red, for my heart design I didn't realize how hard a time I would have finding the bottles. It is heartwarming to find out that not a lot of people – at least in the rural area – buy bottled water! I am proud to support of the Arts Advisory Committee and the arts in Lakeshore.



Photo: Laurie D'Alessandro



Photo: Laurie D'Alessandro
Councillor Linda McKinlay with husband Mark

6. ***Meaningful Baseball Heart***

Frank Jeney, Manager of Recreation and Leisure, Municipality of Lakeshore

I created *Meaningful Baseball Heart* using white & red duct tape. The cross hatching on the baseball represents hidden scars and health issues we have all endured during the many lockdowns, adding stress to an already difficult pandemic. The baseball also represents our yearning to get back to group sports, not only participating but also cheering on our favourite teams!

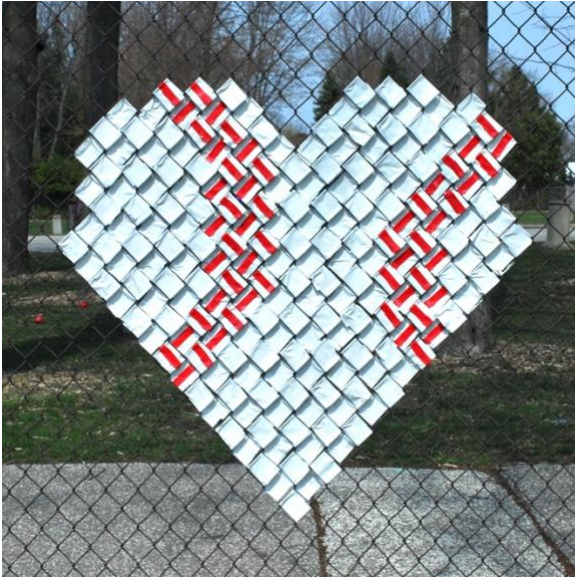


Photo: Laurie D'Alessandro



Frank Jeney, Manager of Recreation and Leisure
installing *Meaningful Baseball Heart*

Photo: Renee Marentette

7. *Sailing Away*

Laurie D'Alessandro, Arts Advisory Committee, Municipality of Lakeshore, Chair

Sailing Away started as an ethereal line drawing about fading memories of family life before COVID-19, and a movement toward hope with the arrival of new vaccines.

The choice of plastic bags as a medium has two meanings. The blue newspaper bags symbolize the importance of our ties to the outside world and our need to protect that communication. The white Patient Belonging Bag represents suffering and separation from loved ones.

The colour blue announces the arrival of serenity and stability as the pandemic wanes, while solemnly recognizing our loss. The colour white signifies the pureness with which all front-line workers completed their responsibilities without complaint. Although my concept is somewhat solemn, it is a quiet reflection of where I am in this period of time and represents members of my family.



Photo: Laurie D'Alessandro



Photo: Renee Marentette
Laurie D'Alessandro installing *Sailing Away*