



## Downtown Orillia's 2017 Mural Project Community Input Needed!

*For Immediate Release*  
Thursday, October 6, 2016

The Downtown Orillia Management Board, in partnership with the City of Orillia, Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, is seeking public input on the creation of a public mural to commemorate and celebrate Orillia's 150th anniversary. To be located in Downtown Orillia, the mural looks to capture the richness of Orillia's past, present and future through the use of lively, dynamic art.

Downtown Orillia is issuing a call for submissions of short stories to Orillia area residents on what they feel should be depicted in the mural. Community input is strongly encouraged and needed to reveal integral people and events in Orillia's history. These short stories will be shared with the mural artist, who will then integrate these stories into the public mural.

"Orillia & area residents are invited and urged to send in short stories, 200 word maximum, of life in Orillia, past and present. We would like to hear your stories regarding significant events as well as people and places, that you feel have helped shape Orillia as a whole" states Event & Marketing Coordinator for Downtown Orillia, Courtney Thompson. "Your stories will be shared with the mural artists throughout the proposal process and will be used as inspiration by the artist to ensure a meaningful and connected public art project is created" added Thompson.

The purpose of this public art mural is to positively transform and revitalize Downtown Orillia while bringing Orillians together through art. This public art mural is meant to highlight the identity and character of Orillia, encourage other community artwork and partnerships and express who we are as a city in a way that everybody can enjoy. This public art mural will entice and inspire all who live and visit Orillia.

Thompson is excited to see this public art project come to life in downtown. "We look forward to seeing the story of our people, our city and of past and present events come to life in this mural. We hope to educate, engage and enhance our downtown and city through this public art project while creating a more interesting, visually rich space that cultivates pride in our city" says Thompson.

The public is asked to send your short stories via email to [office@downtownorillia.ca](mailto:office@downtownorillia.ca) or drop them off or send them to Downtown Orillia, 33 Mississauga St. West, Orillia ON L3V 3A5. The deadline for submissions by Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and please keep your stories to a 200 word maximum.

For more information on the 2017 mural project visit [downtownorillia.ca](http://downtownorillia.ca).

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada.

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For more information:

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