

In 2005, a group of Red Lake artists designed and painted outdoor art banners for the Outdoor Art Gallery. This project was an extension of the highly popular 2004 Outdoor Art Gallery, which was funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Below are the images painted by the artists, their profile, and information about how they selected their images.

“Tikanagen Baby”

Emily R. Weaver

The imagery of this banner shows a traditional tikanagen with a baby inside of it. I put a loon, moon and trilliums on the banner as a tribute to North Western Ontario. In the background are logs.

This banner pays tribute to the Aboriginal history and culture. Because of our location in North Western Ontario, we have the privilege and honour of sharing our history and culture with the Native peoples of this area.

The original photo was taken by my dad, LaMar Weaver. Both my family and I work with the local Impact North Ministries Mission Agency. Impact North works with Aboriginal people of Ontario. The baby represents the new life that comes with Christ and hope for the future.



“Howey’s Helper”

Aundrea Shewchuk

In this banner, the sun is setting behind the saw mill on Howey Bay. There is a beaver that is “helping” move the logs.

Seeing this banner will remind people of the saw mill that used to be on Howey Bay. For those too young to remember the saw mill, this will show them that it was a big part of Red Lake’s history.

When I first joined the banner program I wasn’t sure what to do on my banner since this isn’t my art style. I chose the Howey Bay saw mill because I think that it was a big part of Red Lake’s history and my Grampa Bill Shewchuk ran a saw mill as well. I added a touch of me with the cartoon beaver. It is more like some of the other “silly” artworks that I have created in the past.

“Coffee At the Lakeview with Lesia”

Rhonda Bobinski

The imagery of this banner shows a modern day Lakeview surrounded by a plethora of coffee cups. Coffee is spilling out of a coffee cup, creating a river of coffee. In the foreground is a young Lesia Dayneka, only 15 or 16 at the time, who had just finished a shift at the Lakeview and was on her way home. This image reflects the history of the district by focusing on Lesia Dayneka. One night at an art club session, I asked Lesia how old she was the first time she went to the Lakeview.

She recalled going skating on Howey Bay when she was around 6 years old, and then being given just enough money to get a hot cocoa at the Lakeview after her skate. That was over 65 years ago.

I am personally connected to both Lesia and the Lakeview Restaurant. I worked at the Lakeview for 4 summers, raising money so that I could



continue university studies. I developed a friendship with Lesia during my time there, since she goes to the Lakeview regularly. We had many coffee conversations about art, local gossip, relationships, family and the like. Lesia was also a waitress at the Lakeview.

I think that the flowing river of coffee not only symbolizes the conversation that Lesia and I have had over the years, but also shows the variety of people that have come and gone from the restaurant, sharing their stories, having good conversation, developing friendships, relationships and strong memories.

“Discovery”

George Johnson

The imagery of this banner shows George Campbell, the discoverer of Campbell Mine. He is seated in a trench located at the present mine sight.

The image reflects the history of the district because everyone would like to discover something elusive. The prospector realizes this, maybe not in the find, but being part of the search.

I am personally connected to this imagery because my mother was a part time prospector who owned claims far to the East. I worked at Campbell Mine for 28 years.



“Evening Serenity”

Katelyn MacKinnon

The imagery of this banner makes you feel like you are canoeing into the sunset on a warm summer evening.

Canoeing has been in the history of Red Lake for years, whether it was for the fur trade or just for fun.

The sunset is a classic Red Lake evening sunset. If you are just visiting or you live here, you are guaranteed to experience one like this.

As a local resident to this area, I have always been attracted to the nature side of Red Lake, experiencing beautiful sunsets almost every evening while out canoeing in my spare time.

“Untitled: Transportation”

Kaila Erb

The imagery on my banner shows Red Lake transportation on land, water and air. I painted a canoeist (based on my dad) and a skier (based on my mom). I also included the silhouette of a Norseman plane.

The imagery reflects the history of the area because it shows the common transportation that was used in Red Lake in the past and that is still used today.

I got the idea to do my banner from a story of my parents meeting. Apparently a friend of my dad told my dad he had to meet the “new girl in town” because she brought skis. When my mom met my dad she was more impressed by his canoe!



“Post Narrows”

Mary Wilson

The imagery of this banner shows the gravesite of George Campbell, founder of Campbell Mines. There is also a First Nations grave marker in the foreground, which can be found at the Post Narrows Cemetery.

The Post Narrows Cemetery is over 200 years old, showing the age of the area and how mining opened up the area to development. The northern lights are prominent in our area as are the birch trees. The birch trees are also important to the Native People for transportation and livelihood.

I have visited Post Narrows with family and friends and have enjoyed reading the names and dates on the grave marker.

“Provincial Police Station”

The imagery of this banner shows the original Provincial Police station situated by Howey Bay. The first truck to come to the Red Lake district was a 1928 Model A, brought in by the manager of Howey Mine. The original Provincial Police station is now replaced with the new OPP station, just down the street from the original.



I attended the grand opening of the new OPP station and love the contrast from then to now. As an auto parts store owner and operator, I was also fascinated with the vehicles of the time.

“Hope”

Valerie Blab

The stark broken trees reflect the deadly aftermath of a forest fire. The sickly, jaundiced sky, the red sun and the trees with the flame-like red tongues twisting through their bark, bear the memory of the event. Most of the colours, the brown, black, gray, and ochre are dull, and to my mind, dead-looking colours. Red and green, opposite each other on the colour wheel, are also called “complimentary”.

In the same way, life and death oppose one another and yet, at the same time, compliment each other in the circle of life; from the dead trees, new growth springs. The small sprig of green represents new life after the fire and hope for the future.

Forest fires are very much a part of the history of the district and continue to be an inevitable fact of life in the area. They are one of nature’s agents of regeneration and provide for the growth of new stands of trees. In my mind, the trees also represent the hardiness and determination and enduring nature of the human inhabitants of the district as well. We are very much rooted in this area that we love.

The inspiration and my personal connection with the imagery in my banner is my own memory of what the sky looked like when a forest fire threatened Red Lake in 1986. The yellow/gray sky, eerie red sun, still, heavy, acrid air and the ash sifting down and settling on the car and on the water in my daughter’s swimming pool are images that remain vivid in my mind. In this piece, with simple, bold images and few, carefully chosen colours, I have tried to convey the harshness of that eerie feeling. I hope that the contrasting sprig of green, a colour which represents life, to me, stand out in sharp relief to the bleakness of the rest of the piece and inspired the viewer with hope.



“Dragonflies”

Louise Coppen

The imagery of this banner reflects dragonflies in flight. A lot of time was put into the detail of the wings and studying the colour of dragonflies.

Dragonflies are very welcome summer visitors. They help control the mosquito and blackfly population.

I painted the dragonflies because I thought they would be easy subjects. Wrong!



“Jingle Girls Rock!”

Carolyn Spicer

The imagery on this banner depicts my daughters Rebecca, age 5, and Ruby, age 3, in jingle dresses on a background of swirly colours and sparkles. This imagery reflects the history of the area by depicting the aboriginal history and importance of the First Nations Peoples to the Red Lake area.



I love the jingle dance and would love for my girls to be dancers some day. I'm proud of my own aboriginal ancestry and wanted by banner to show that.

“Fairwind’s Drummer”

Eric Robinson

The imagery of this banner shows a Native man hitting Fairwind’s drum under a thunderbird.

This image reflects the history of the area because it is of Native man, who lived here first. He is hitting a drum that they used for a variety of ceremonial purposes. There is also a spiritual Native symbol which reflects the Woodland art style that many believe originated in our area.



“Traveler”

Don Nord

The imagery in this banner shows the Miss McKenzie crossing the Bruce Channel to McKenzie Island. Carl Robinson, a pioneer to the Red Lake area, is piloting the boat. The Gold Eagle Hotel can be seen in the background. Navigating a boat is an occupation Carl once had, back in the 30's, when he brought supplies up the Chukuni River.

This is transportation to the Red Lake area revisited. All goods and services were either by water or by aircraft and also tractor train in winter.

The individual you see piloting the Miss McKenzie is a neighbour and good friend...Carl Robinson, whom I have known since I was a child.



Fishing 1963
Leslie Varga

The inspiration for this banner came from a black and white photograph. Often people would send their black and white photos to be colour enhanced, creating an image which combined the monochrome with splashes of colour.

The imagery reflected in this banner was based upon a black and white photo taken by my father in 1963. The scene depicted in my banner played out time and time again in the Red Lake Area.

I think all of us who live in this area can identify with the fishing trip as a common social event; with opportunities for conversations big and small, to the sound of the tranquil song of the loon.

Spring Time
Amanda Hall

The imagery of this banner shows many colourful flowers with a blue sky and green grass. There are also a couple of butterflies flying in the sky.

This banner reflects the history of the district because we live in a community where people enjoy gardening and planting.

I painted flowers because every spring my mother buys and plants tons of flowers in the many flower beds in our front and back yard. I always know summer is on its way when the tulips start to show.



“Quilting in the Northwoods”

Karin Kolman

The imagery of this banner combines quilting with painting. Painting is a new part of my life and I love both quilting and painting equally.

The image reflects the history of the area because it tells a story about the area. The quilting blocks include pine trees, a log cabin, flying geese, bears and a bear paw, moose, lakes, canoeing, fishing and our ducks. The border has been detailed with wild blueberries.



I started quilting in the mid 80's and became addicted. I have loved it ever since then. Soon after, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and died. It was my therapy that got me through.

“Wild Irises and Poppies”

The imagery of this banner is of wild irises. Wild irises are one of many flowers in our area. Often we take for granted the beauty that lives around us. There are also wild poppies in the banner. The simplified design and grid background make the banner look like a stain glass window.

The image reflects the history of the area because these flowers grow in the Red Lake district.



"Miners on Site"

Lesia Daynek

While having coffee with the local miners, they would often lament that they were not acknowledged. The mine structure would be made into monuments, but never the individual working the rock.

I saw the monument that Sudbury made in honour of their miners, which is awesome. So I tried to get pictures of early prospectors and their mine shafts. The prospectors wore fedoras, jodhpurs, and leather boots laced to just below the knee.

On site, the shaft would be hand dug, drilled and dynamited. Logs were brought in by horse-drawn sledge. These logs were hand hewn as there were no chain saws in those days. Mail and information in the winter would be brought in by dog team.

Their accommodations were tents and log dug out cabins. After work they did not have a warm shower and bedroom to go to. They also had to cook for themselves.

Dr. Jeffries, a dentist from Sioux Lookout, came in by dog team to service the men. Medical doctors and nurses came in a set up tent hospitals until a log building could be built.

My father came here in 1933 to work in the mines and brought in his family in 1936. I was born in Iroquois Falls.

"The Flying Bandit"

Elizabeth Anne Mochrie

My banner is a "poster" of the man Ken Leishman, although he is more famous for his title "The Flying Bandit". The banner is a depiction of him and the plane crash that claimed his life, or so we've been led to believe.



Ken Leishman was a citizen of Red Lake for years before he was caught and convicted while attempting one of the biggest gold heists in Canada. He served his time in jail, before returning once again to our northern community. He was accompanying a patient on a medical flight, and both he and the passenger died in the crash. At the time he had been elected as the deputy mayor.

I wanted to make this banner appear similar to an old movie poster. The story of the Flying Bandit intrigued me, and indeed it does have that same sort of "romantic" appeal of a classic film. It is relatively safe to assume that Ken Leishman died in that plane crash, but one can still ponder the events and wonder if he was just performing another greatly disguised gold-heist.



"Sox"

Ashley Majewski

The imagery in this banner is of a small red fox lying in the grass. It is a close up, detailed painting.

Red Lake is well known for its scenery and nature. Wild animals seem to always be around, living in forested areas. I have grown up appreciating the vast wildlife.

I have always enjoyed watching wildlife. Wolves and foxes have always been a favourite of mine, although they are rare to see.



“Gene – Gramma To All”

Brenda Drager

The imagery in this banner depicts Gramma Gene in her younger days being looked upon as she was in her older days. She played the piano and loved to garden as is reflected in this painting. Gramma Gene was the eccentric wife of George Campbell, discovered and founder of Campbell Mines.

The clothing the younger Gene was dressed in reflects the era in which the Red Lake area was settled as does the log cabin in the background. She lived in her own log cabin at “Hell’s Acres” until her passing.

I knew and liked Gramma Gene. She was a strong pioneer woman and a larger than life figure in Red Lake’s history.

“A Madsen Perspective”

Patrick Hunter

The imagery of this banner shows the Madsen head frame. It is looking over my neighbourhood in Madsen at sunset. There is a slight view of Beaver Dam Lake and the second road used to get into Madsen.

This banner reflects the history of the district because Madsen was once a great mining community in the Red Lake region, with its own “everything” and now it has faded away into what we know it as today.

I am proud to call Madsen my home so I wanted to paint something that would make people stop, look at the banner and say, “That’s Madsen!” I think I might have succeeded.



“Allen Miner 1”

Elaine McIntosh

I decided to do a banner of my husband Allen in a black and white theme which I thought would be an interesting concept on a banner that size.

I dedicated the portrait of Allen because he was born and raised in Red Lake and had given 25 years to mining at Goldcorp. Also, for me the land in the Red Lake district has always been very beautiful and peaceful, since I’m originally from Winnipeg. It is nice to come back once in a while for the scenery and quiet.

I am personally connected to this imagery because it is to my husband Allen. He couldn’t work any longer and it was really hard for him to leave mining, so I chose this theme to say thank you to Allen for being a great husband, father, grandfather, provider and most of all I can truly say he is my best friend.





“Legend of Red Lake”

Leanne Nicholson

The imagery of this banner shows a moose standing in water. He has just been shot with a bow and arrow. The blood is seeping into the lake, creating “Red Lake”.

This image is my interpretation of the Native legend of Red Lake.

I feel personally connected to this imagery because I have a passion for moose and nature.

“Patricia Players”

Pat McWade

Patricia Players have been in the Red Lake area for over 20 years. The group and the shows are well-rounded (lil yellow circle. Get it? Well rounded?...never mind) and include comedy,

drama and music. Break-Up brightens up the doldrums from the long winter....sort of like Sunny’s “sunshine bouquet”.

There may be times when some group members might be construed to be mad as Lewis Carroll’s Hatter, but everyone in the group is a star. The glasses are for reading between the lines of some of the scripts. The little bolt at the bottom is God’s review of some of the jokes we use, and many of the jokes we didn’t.



“Northern Lights Gospel Mission”

Erin Weaver

The imagery of this banner is the old waterfront building which used to be the Northern Lights Gospel Mission. Today it is the Waterfront Lodge. I also included the Mission plane and a fisherman in the banner.

Impact North, or Northern Lights Gospel Mission has a very rich history. Irwin Schantz started the mission in 1953 with two other men, along with their brave wives and children. There are many great stories from our veteran missionaries. The waterfront building was the original headquarters. Now it is behind the Saan Store.

The only reason I am up in the Red Lake district is because my dad works for Impact North. The Mission is a big part of my life. My relationship with God is also important, so I thought I should show some history of God’s people in Red Lake.





“Lefty Veers Right”

Curt Malinsky

My banner depicts a raven hopping through a snow covered backyard away from a torn bag of garbage. Some items of garbage are either exposed or strewn over the ground. In the background, a dogwood grows against a picket fence.

“Lefty” was a flightless raven that lived in my neighbourhood for about ten years. He probably died shortly after Christmas 2003. The other ravens tormented him but people would leave scraps of food specifically for him and Lefty was extremely self-sufficient.

The red twiggled dogwood against the pale turquoise fence was an image I encountered in a nearby backyard. The three dimensional garbage bag was a later addition to my original design as was the inclusion of actual items of garbage. These ideas were advanced by Rhonda Bobinski and Chris Jinot and seemed appropriate because I have done a lot of litter picking over the past year.

The imagery of my banner is of the Indian paintbrush flower that is prolific in the district. Driving along highway 105, you can see the ditches glowing red where the paintbrush grows.

“Indian Paintbrush Flower”

Sandy Bullied



“Griffith Mine Site”

Tammy Cotton

This banner shows the remains of the old Griffith Mine structures and the natural vegetation and rocks that now surround it.

These remnants are important to the history of the Red Lake District because they are a reminder of the iron ore mining that took place on the site from the mid 1960's to 1986.

The Griffith Mine site is significant because not only does it provide a habitat for local flora and fauna, but it is also widely used as a recreational area that the whole family may enjoy

“The Souls”

Adam Erb

The imagery of this banner is a collage of all the original members of the Souls of Inspyraton, a Red Lake based band that were quite famous during the 60's. I combined all of the members in a kind of swirly psychedelic void to emphasize the spirit of the 60's.

This imagery reflects the history of the district because the group was Red Lake based and made their start playing at dances and in youth hangouts. They soon became well known and went on to play at Expo and in Japan, but never forgot their roots.



The large face at the top of the banner is Don Wilson, the bass player of the band who still lives in Red Lake to this day. For many years he had taught music to young members of the community free of charge, one of his students being me.



“Untitled”

Calvin Comber

The imagery in this banner shows a tree growing in the sidewalk with a city in the background. There is a big green eye with red swirls coming out of it. There is also a big black swirl above the city with blue bubbles around it.

This banner reflects how I like living in a city but my roots will always be in a small town. The big eye represents how my eyes were open to a whole new living experience.

I think that many people from the area can relate to this banner’s idea because many people feel the need to escape the small town and go to the city every once in a while.

“Birch Trees”

Joanne Campeau-Trottier

I was encouraged to paint “Birch Trees” because of the wide variety of trees and forest in Red Lake.

The imagery in my banner represents the logging industry, natural resources, tourism and parks.

The image was born from a glimpse through the art room window during one of our art assignments (when I was taking a night class at the high school). We had to practice using different mediums and resist techniques. The resist technique inspired me to paint the birch trees because of their similarity texturally.



“Victory Bonds”

Laura Brooks

The imagery of this banner shows a builder in Red Lake that displayed signs advertising victory bonds during the war. The image reflects the overall spirit and generosity still found today in our community.

This imagery shows how Red Lake, as a community, was able to make a contribution during World War II.

Both of my grandfathers were veterans of WWII and were present for the liberation of the Netherlands. I also have a few different family members throughout the generations that were bankers.





“Forgotten Signs”
Michael Desforges

The imagery in this banner shows an old sign that is a mile or two away from Harry’s Corner towards Ear Falls. I exaggerated the sky to show space and stars.

This imagery reflects the history of the district because it is an old sign that was probably painted over 10 years ago. The sign is about the area being Norseman capital of the world, and this historic plane has been helpful in the development of our communities.

I went out to where the sign was last fall to clean some brush and get some community hours for it. However, I noticed that it was on old sign and thought to myself that it must have been forgotten about years ago. I thought about how I would feel if I was forgotten so I just tried to give the sign recognition that it deserves.

“Keeper of Life”
Carmen Hinkson

The imagery of this banner reflects woman emerging, powerful and the keeper of life. The woman is in green, similar to a pine and representing life. The baby is new life. I would like the image to have its own meaning for each individual viewer.



“The Otter”
Kim Friesen



The image on this banner is of VQD, a De Havilland Otter DHC-3, the last otter to come off the assembly line. My future husband at the time this photo was taken was flying VQD out of Matheson Island, MB in 2001. I later saw VQD at the Norseman Festival newly outfitted with a Walter and demonstrating over Howey Bay its new found power. From what I have heard pilots say, Red Lakes own Howey Bay was one of the busiest airports in Canada at one point in time, with float planes ruling the sky

Something about airplanes has always held my interest. I can not help but look into the sky when I hear the familiar rumble of a piston. I love Red Lake because every day over my home I get the chance to see airplanes, such as Hercules, Hawkers, Caravans, Otters, Norsemans, 182’s, Beechs, Beavers, 206, Metro’s, 1900’s and a few jets. I can hear from my home, my husband at work fire up the engines of the Hawker and I can hear him come in too, where else could a wife have such a luxury. This image represents to me freedom... to soar above the clouds, what a gift.