

# Inspiring action and working towards healing and reconciliation in the Municipality of Kincardine

On Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> artists and volunteers came together along Kincardine's lakeshore at the bottom of Harbour Street to paint two crosswalks. Creation of these ground murals is part of the ongoing journey to reconciliation as well as a representation of the community's actions towards supporting and celebrating inclusion.

## Seven Generations Crosswalk

**Artist: Jeffrey Red George**

### The story behind the Seven Generations mural



The first crosswalk features work by Jeffrey (Red) George (Ma-Mi-No-ga-boo). Red is an Ojibway artist who grew up along the shores of Lake Huron on the First Nation lands of Kettle and Stoney Point. He connects with his mind and heart, with each of his paintings guided by the ancestral tradition of painting in the Woodland style influenced by Norval Morrisseau. Red is a renowned artist signed with Canadian Indigenous Art in Vancouver and a native flutist.

This vision was designed as an eagle feather, you can see the image of an eagle's head inside the feather. If someone received an eagle feather it is a symbol of great honour and respect. The eagle serves as a messenger for the earth's people, retrieving prayers and delivering them to the Great Spirit in the sky. The eagle flies the highest amongst all other birds which allows it to travel to the Creator's realm.

The colour black represents a dark period in Canadian history in which many Indigenous children were taken from their homes and sent to residential schools many run by churches and endured abuses on many levels.

The colour orange represents every child matter, especially the children who did not make it home and who were recently discovered in unmarked graves and the survivors who have suffered from the trauma subjected upon them.

The colour white represents the healing powers of prayer that lead us from a darkened past to a brighter future of hope.

The seven little circles within the eagle feather represent the seven sacred grandfather teachings – honesty, truth, love, respect, bravery, wisdom and humility. These teachings were given to help humanity live a more harmonious and balanced life so that we would treat each other and the earth with more kindness.

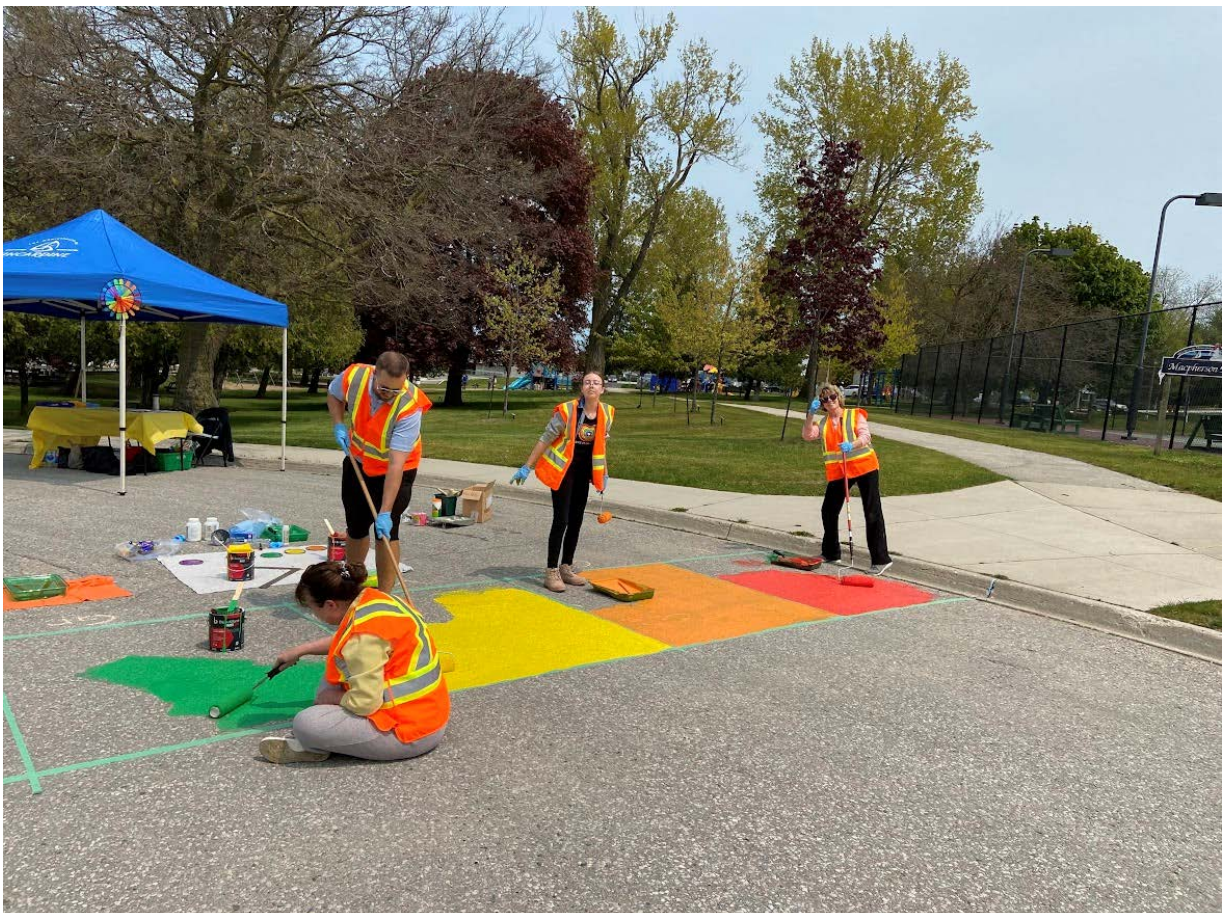
This crosswalk is named in honour of the seven generations. This idea urges the current generation to live and cooperate for the benefit of the next seven generations that are to come in the future. The Seventh Generation Principle is based on an ancient Haudenosaunee (Iroquois)\* philosophy that the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future. It is also important to keep in mind to create healthy relationships build on a strong foundation of trust and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

When you are using this crosswalk, you are walking with the ancestors, say a beautiful prayer for the earth and all its beings and for the seven generations that are yet to come.

### **The Pride Crosswalk**

#### **Artists: Kincardine Pride and allies**

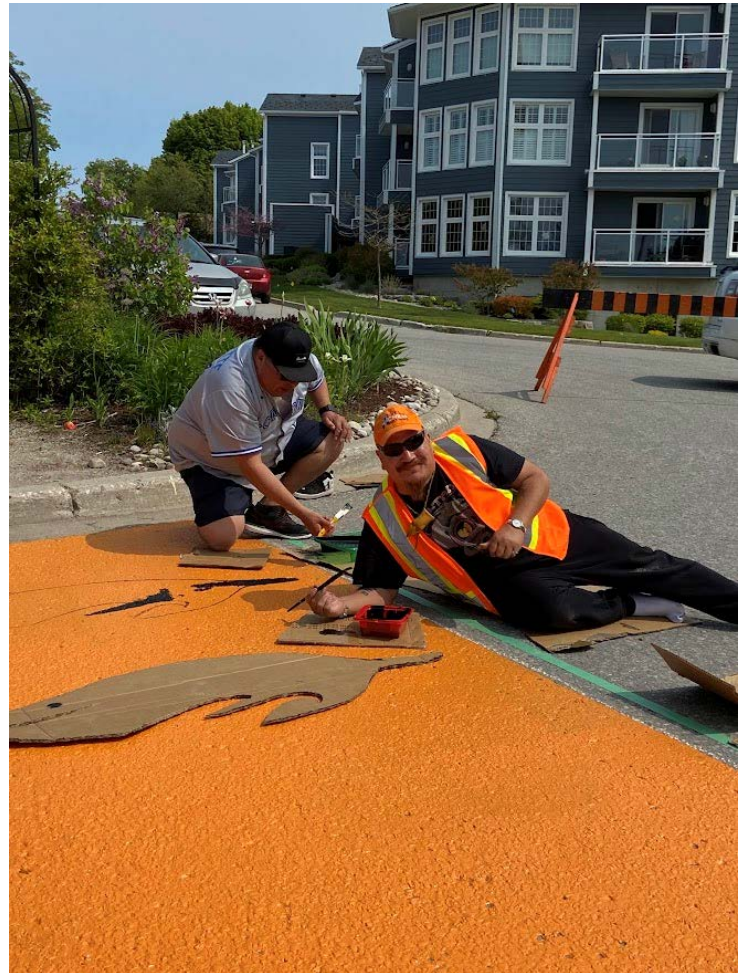
A Pride flag crosswalk was the second artistic creation. A celebration of progress and an acknowledgement of the rights of 2SLGBTQ+ identities, the crosswalk symbolizes a commitment to being a safe and welcoming community. Members of Kincardine Pride, Council and allies assisted with the painting. Many people who passed by said they were excited by the visual welcome it will offer to residents and visitors of diverse gender expressions.















For additional resources:

- Jeffrey George's Red Dog Studio: <https://reddogartstudio.com>
- Truth and Reconciliation: [www.kincardine.ca/journey-to-reconciliation](http://www.kincardine.ca/journey-to-reconciliation)
- Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA): [www.kincardine.ca/IDEA](http://www.kincardine.ca/IDEA)