

Community Banner Program

2022 Selections

Judging Selection

- Judges included Professional Artists, and City Staff.
- Judges consider the art, and artist statement during adjudication.

Judging Scoring

- Submissions connection to the theme /30
- Overall esthetics of the submission /30
- Submissions meets guidelines outlined in the program guide /30
- Artist Statement /10
- Total /100

Julieta Cortes - Blue Heron

Part of the nature in Pickering, the blue herons are amazingly patient to wait for their pray. Beautiful to see them in flight as well.



Mehtaab Wachhair - Neighborhood Watch

I showcased the nature and culture of Pickering through the eyes, diverse in colour and size. The eyes in the artwork are drawn to be seen looking in different directions showing that the community of Pickering is observant and present in the loves of their companions.

The community is interconnected with each other regardless of one's colour, age, gender, or cultural background, looking out for each other's wellness, happiness, and delightfulness representing the true spirit that people of Pickering show to others.



Mehtaab Wachhair - The Blissful Garden

Trees and interlocking branches are drawn to display the light and sense of liveliness in the Pickering community. The big heart in the middle with various colorful small hearts surrounding represent the diversity- that we are interconnected through the veins, heartwarming, welcoming.

Furthermore, the different types of flowers of the same garden showcase the well-kept nature, which in turn represent the diverse culture in the city.



Aleah Henry - View From a Stroll

Inspired by the feeling you get walking the trails or waterfront in Pickering. There is a sense of natural adventure and excitement at what you may encounter – new wildlife, an interesting plant, sculptures, unique design... the possibilities are endless. It is this intersection of nature and culture that keeps me returning to familiar trails. This mixed media piece takes license with colours and forms to give the impression of a meeting place for imagination and reality.



Elizabeth Johnson - All walks of life on the Pickering Pedestrian Bridge

All walks of life on the Pickering Pedestrian Bridge...Right in the center of the Anchor Mobility Hub is the longest pedestrian bridge in Pickering. It spans across Canada's busiest Highway 401, with 14 lanes and is accessible to pedestrians and cyclists. A Bridge is usually a symbolic way in change or transition, communication, connection and union. Much like nature...people who are more connected with nature are usually happier in life. They radiate positive energy such as calmness, joy, creativity and facilitate concentration. "There's no Wi-Fi in the forest, but you'll find a better connection..." Day In and Day Out, all walks of life journey through the longest pedestrian bridge...each has their own story...each has their own destination... beaches, family picnics in the park, festivals, hiking, school, shopping, travelling, working... The list goes on and as our paths cross...may we share a friendly wave, smile and say hello. Nature is something we are surrounded by, so don't forget to look out the window and enjoy the view! And as the LED lights illuminates the bridge at night ... it signifies our destination...HOME. Pickering is a community that celebrates and supports everyone's culture, heritage and individuality.



Elizabeth Johnson - All Roads Lead to home...Pickering

All roads lead to home...Pickering. Home is where the heart is...Birthplace, education, employment, graduation, relationships ... wherever life takes you... all roads will lead you back home. Home is a place of belonging, comfort, love and memories. "Families are like branches on a tree. We grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one." Family roots takes us back through generations and gives us a strong sense of identity and connection in our home town, Pickering.

There are many historical sites and things to see ... Pickering Museum Village, Frenchman's Bay lighthouse , Bible Faith Church, Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, Pickering Castle, Rouge National Urban Park, Altona forest, Petticoat Creek Conservation area, Ancient of Spirit garden, Waterfront Trail and many more. Pickering community believes, grows and shares in each others cultural diversities.



Siyi Yu - Irises

When i fist time visiting pickering with my sister, we went to Rotary Frenchman's Bay West Park. I don't remember how long we stayed there, but i do deeply remember that there is a irises standing out from some tall grass which is lonely and stunning. I was totally surprised by this amazing flower and there is nothing like that golden moment on that day. Since that moment, I remember there is a beautiful and impressive city called Pickering!

After I back to home, I start to paint it right the way to remember that wonderful moment in Pickering.



Tanya Davio - Winter Wanderer

My original painting, entitled "Winter Wanderer" is based on a photograph I took of the snowy owl that makes her home at Frenchman's Bay most winters. While many birds migrate south from Pickering in winter, others from the arctic make their way to the area to seek refuge. My submission intends to bring awareness to the variety of wildlife that make their home in Pickering, if only temporarily, and form an important part of the nature and culture of the city.

In my interpretation of the image, the owl rests on a post while a winter storm works its way across the sky. The owl looks over her shoulder towards the light, and knows that she has found a safe place to land.



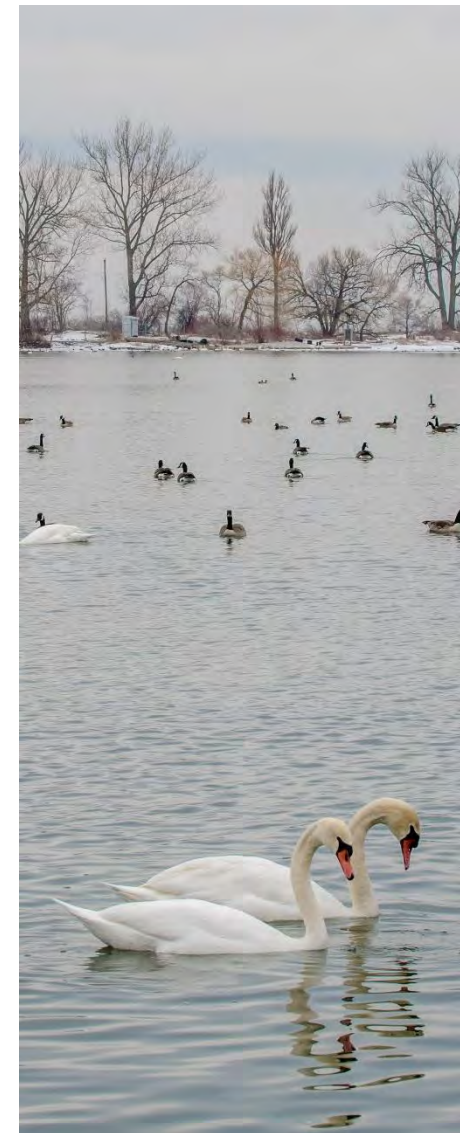
Sean Stone - Rouge Park Monarch

I had never really spent a lot of time in Pickering before, but being recently retired, I had the time to finally explore. What I discovered was a wealth of green spaces, wetland and beaches that were extraordinary. I chose a day in March and a day in August so that I could see the changes in these natural environments that a seasonal shift provides. I travel quite a bit, and when I photograph my travels, I generally shoot wide in order to convey the atmosphere of the location. It's a way that I can relive the moment, and a way for people who have never been there to hopefully experience a bit of what I was experiencing. For my Pickering photographs, however, I realized that my audience already KNOWS these locations, so I decided to go closer than I might otherwise. To look at subjects within subjects. Sometimes, when one is really familiar with a location, it's the details that are the first things to get lost and blend into the background. So I thought that I might bring those details back to the foreground in order to allow even locals to rediscover the nature that resides in Pickering right under their noses: The monarch butterfly was showing off on the Waterfront Trail near the Rouge National Urban Park, and the pair of swans in Frenchman's Bay were just enjoying a marginally warm winter's day with their Canadian geese friends. As the swans and butterfly already know, Pickering is a great place to enjoy natural beauty.



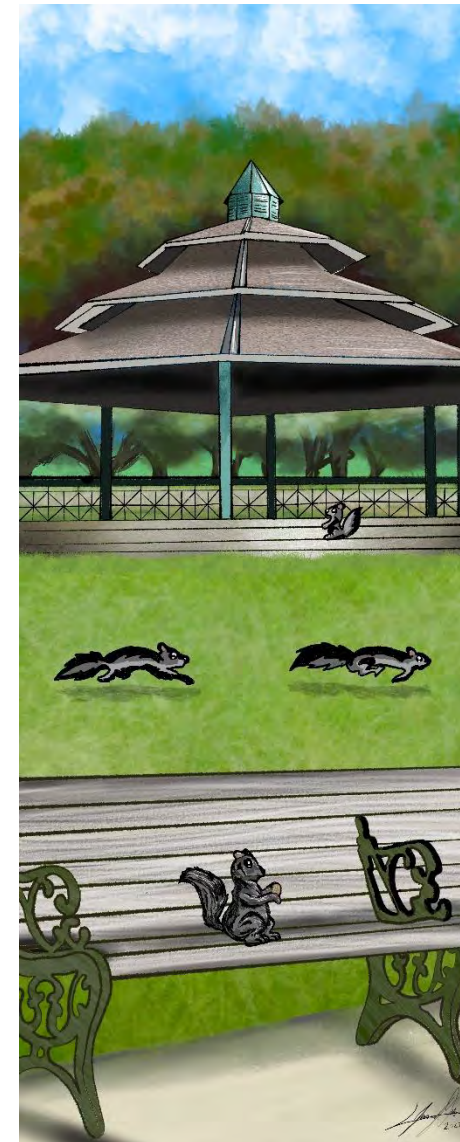
Sean Stone - Winter Swim on Frenchman's Bay

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Jason Das - The Secret Life of Squirrels

Take a walk by Esplanade Park behind Pickering City Hall, and you will always see a black squirrel. You cannot help but wonder what these squirrels are thinking. I see them climbing trees. I see them chasing other squirrels around. I see them digging out for peanuts and eating them under park benches. I like how when I am walking by the gazebo in the park, the squirrels will stop to watch me walk by. Hoping for me to give some kind of food.



Jason Das - City Hall Rabbits

During my evening walks, I would walk by Pickering City Hall. Around Esplanade Park's back, I occasionally saw a rabbit lying on the grass. I'm so used to seeing black squirrels mostly around city hall. Out of curiosity, I followed the rabbit to the area back of the public library. The rabbit ran under a tree. As I walked away, more rabbits came running out from under the tree. It was an exciting sight to see. It was like a fairytale moment I pictured in an animated movie.



Emma Moore - Waterfront Walks

Growing up in Durham Region I often took hikes and bike rides along Pickering's waterfront trails. These adventures with my family were my first introductions to the beautiful natural wildlife that live among the township. I found myself wanting to explore nature and the outdoors more, discovering new native plants and critters. These memorable experiences shaped my relationship to our natural environment, and made me value our green spaces more. Frenchman's Bay was always an exciting resting spot on our route, a place to grab an ice cream and watch the sail boats dock and flow out to sea. Now, as an adult I find myself looking back on these moments and how excited I was to see these animals in the wild for the first time. I hope that I can continue to share these special interactions with the people in my life by continuing on my own trail.



Kate Greenway - Summer sailboats @ the Yacht Club

The combination of nature and culture that Pickering provides is a bright star in its cap. Just in the last few months, my husband and I have enjoyed many experiences of a cultural nature: eating in a waterfront restaurant on one of the hottest days of summer, with cooling breezes over the bay; hiking Alex Robertson Park in late winter to enjoy the astonishing wooden sculptures nestled amidst the trees, bushes and waterfront areas ready to burst forth in spring; discovering a mom and pop restaurant who just re-opened after COVID on the day we went, for one of the best Mexican meals we have ever had; and walking along the waterfront trails in all seasons, enjoying the water, the windswept views and the birds.

This water colour is of a view of the Frenchman's Bay Yacht Club. The sailboats shimmer on the water, and one thinks about the fun of gliding effortlessly across the bay in one of these beautiful boats. I cannot think of a better combination of nature and culture: sailing as a peaceful activity to enjoy all the beauty of the waterfront that Pickering allows access to.



Kate Greenway - Swan Serenity

My husband and I have discovered Pickering as a place where there are many opportunities to experience the natural environment. We have hiked the Waterfront Trail in winter and summer, and walked along the Rouge National Urban Park, seeing turtles, monarch butterflies, dragonflies, blackbirds, robins, ducks, cormorants and so much more in the river and wetlands. There is always something to discover. Sharing sightings of rare birds with birdwatchers, smiling at beachgoers and passersby, and immersing ourselves in fresh air and nature has been a pleasure, especially during pandemic lockdowns. We all have rediscovered how important and precious our local flora and fauna are, and how we need to take care of them.

This watercolour is of a pair of swans gliding quietly in the wild areas of Frenchman's Bay seen on one of our recent walks. I find it astounding how many beautiful birds there are to observe on the bay, and I tried to capture their grace and beauty as glimpsed through the brightly coloured flowers on shore. They made me joyful and thankful for the opportunity to observe nature close up, and I hope the viewer feels the same.



Yasaman Mehrsa - Oneness With Nature

Inspired by the theme of “The Nature and Culture of Pickering”, my digital illustration represents interconnection with nature and solidarity in the community. The house is a symbol of community and belonging, the bird is a symbol of freedom and peace, and the tree is a symbol of growth and resilience. This vibrant and radiant piece of art exudes inclusivity, community and oneness with nature.



Mario Dimain - Vibrance

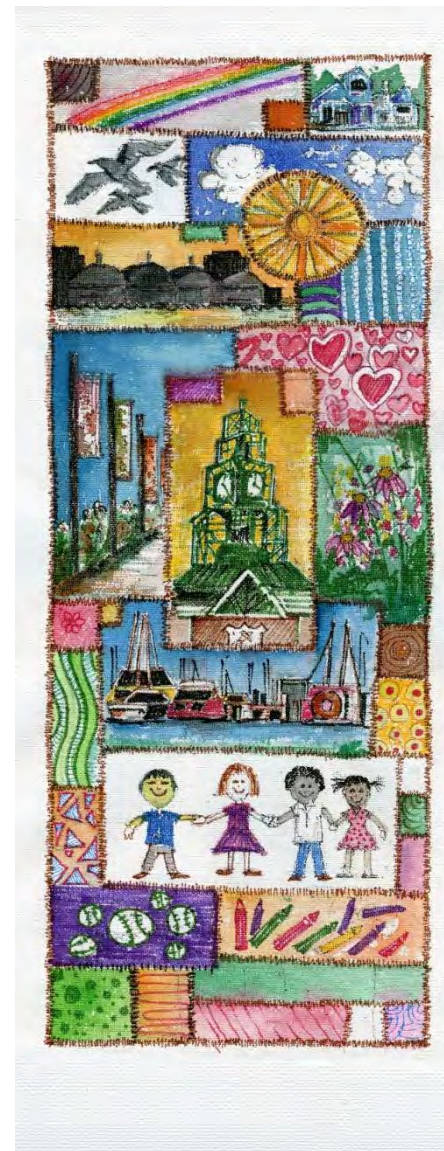
"If there is only one word that can embody the nature and culture of Pickering, it would be "Vibrance". Pickering is a vibrant city. It is full of life and surrounded with arts that shine in flying colours. The pulsating excitement of community events is ever present in the air. Under the rainbow umbrella of multiculturalism, this diverse city continues to grow with one unified goal to move forward as Canadians. Pickering truly represents the good image of Canada that is respected around the world."



Mario Dimain - Patches of Harmony

My banner for this year's theme is "Patches of Harmony." This piece fully expresses my heartfelt admiration of all the integral elements that represent the whole pride of Pickering.

Pickering is a tapestry of interwoven cultures forged by collective visionaries who dared to dream of a beautiful city. When I look at Pickering, I see a beautiful mosaic. So beautiful, a poet can stitch the words to write it into a lovely poem. From Altona to Brock, a musician can turn Pickering into an upbeat melody.



Helen Polishuk - Water Element

A big hello from Etobicoke. I am glad to participate in the banner contest and specially created the WATER ELEMENT banner. Pickering, like Etobicoke, is located near Lake Ontario and this is the main motive of the painting. Everything that is most valuable and important in Pickering is associated with water. Water brings life to the city and nature around it. Everything in the city blooms and improves thanks to water.

Therefore, it is the most important element for the life and successful prosperity of the city. This is original work made by acrylic on canvas. With great enthusiasm I participate in your competition and look forward to the decision of the jury.



Ella Macatangay - Life is a Beach

I love Frenchman's Bay. It is my favorite place in Pickering. My sisters and I go there every summer and our parents take us there when the weather is hot. The blue water, blue sky and golden sandy beach fills me with happiness whenever I'm there. It also makes me proud to have a place in our community that families can enjoy.

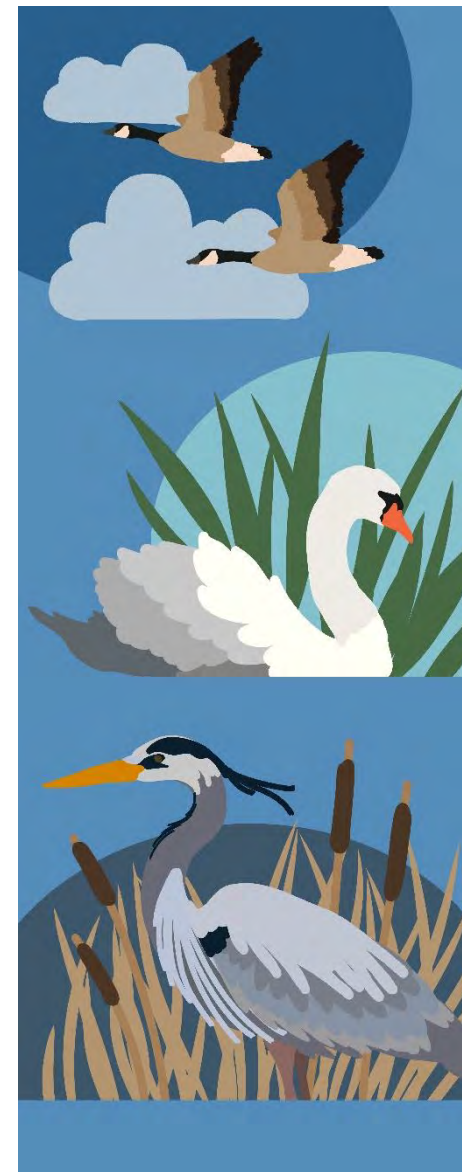
I hope when people see my banner they'll feel happy and peaceful and know that Pickering is a great place to be.



Laura Smith - Birds of Pickering

Growing up in the city of Pickering in the early 1990's, I spent many afternoons discovering the waterfront of Lake Ontario. I have fond memories of exploring the Petticoat Creek Conservation Area with my grandfather, in particular the wetlands and sandy beaches where the creek meets the lake. Building strong relationships with greenspace and natural areas builds a fundamental relationship and respect between communities and the environment that supports them.

Birds of Pickering is a digital illustration capturing the various wildlife I remember from these walks along the lakeshore as a child which cultivated so much joy and wonder in my youth. I hope to highlight the great diversity of species which inhabit the natural spaces in the city and inspire others to explore all the great landscapes of Pickering!



Tuncel Mustafa - Wild Sunflowers by the Lake

What inspired my art was Pickering's beauty in natural diversity that has been appreciated and enjoyed by the community, which itself is proud of its own mosaic. This richness is also reflected on the many colors and shapes from a variety of flowers and animals. The Pickering Community enjoys the richness of different cultures that have come together to form a harmony, each bringing values from their unique and colorful backgrounds.

When I take a walk by the lake, I see wild sunflowers everywhere during summer and beginning of the fall in Pickering. This piece portrays the growth of the wild sunflowers through the stones, much like their human counterparts, who work hard to earn a living.



Tuncel Mustafa - Reeds and Goose

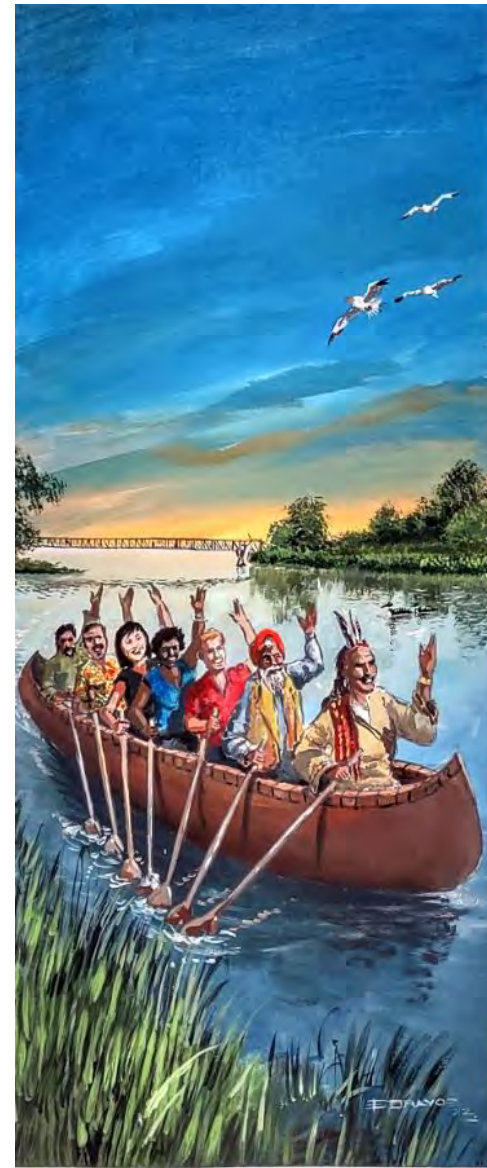
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In this artwork, I tried to reflect on the life and work of the hard-working people that symbolizes the true spirit of the Pickering community and its nature. Reedy areas have been the places for geese to survive. This composition depicts the symbiosis of wild life and human life of the hard working Pickering community within the nature's charm.



Enrique Bravo - Rowing together, growing together

Different nationalities, different cultures, all together rowing in the beautiful and pleasant natural reserve in Pickering, rowing towards a future in peace and appreciation of the space they share.



Enrique Bravo - Faces and Spaces

Faces representing the contrasts of multiculturalism share the composition in a collage with the exuberant natural colourful beauty of Pickering.



Carolyn Boyd - Beauty at the Waterfront

A lighthouse means safe harbour, for all travellers. This is one of two lighthouses along the Pickering shoreline, at Frenchman's Bay. The birds are circling peacefully in the sky. A fisherman is enjoying an early morning on the waterfront. He makes the catch of the day with the hope of a great meal ahead.

Fishing is a past-time enjoyed by many people, and some enthusiasts associate fishing with great health and happiness. The Pickering waterfront is a very special place.



Carolyn Boyd - The Wonder of the Night

The Pickering City Hall is lit up in celebration. The colours are exciting and bring us much joy. The phases of the Moon can be seen overhead. We look up to imagine mysterious happenings, and perhaps all of nature's creatures look up with great amazement, as well. We are so mesmerized by the night sky.



Ashraf Hasanali - Birds at the Waterfront

Pickering is a delightful mix of built and well-preserved natural environments offering a diversity of cultural and natural experiences.

As an architect, the cultural aspect that most speaks to me are buildings, be they historical or contemporary. I am delighted by the discovery of the many Victorian gems studded around Pickering and the manner in which their vocabulary is echoed in its more modern structures.

As a nature lover and a fledgling bird-watcher, the waterfront in Pickering offers many opportunities for spotting both, common and the rarer water birds, be they swans, ducks, cormorants, herons, egrets, or kingfishers. Both of these treasures of Pickering are what have inspired my artwork.

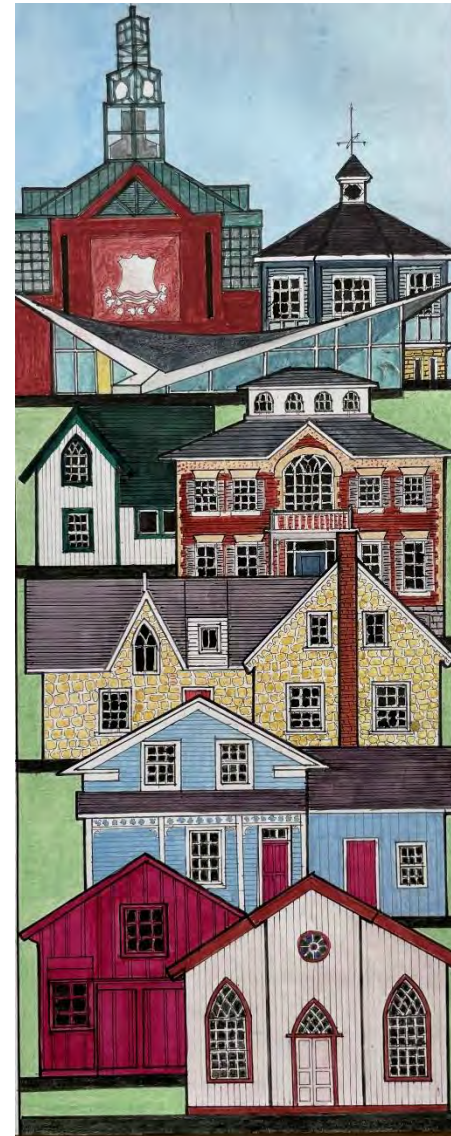


Ashraf Hasanali - The Built Environment

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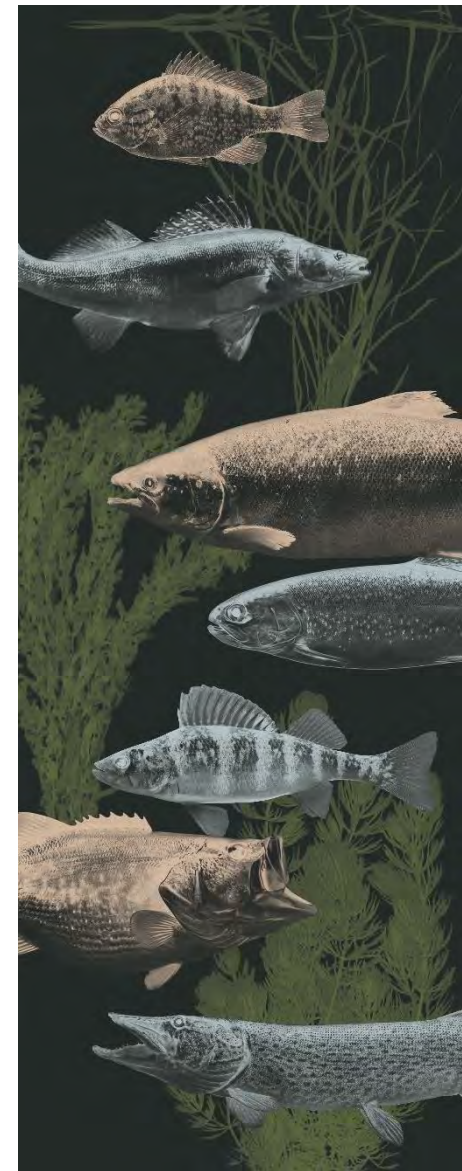
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Talie Shalmon - Fish of Lake Ontario

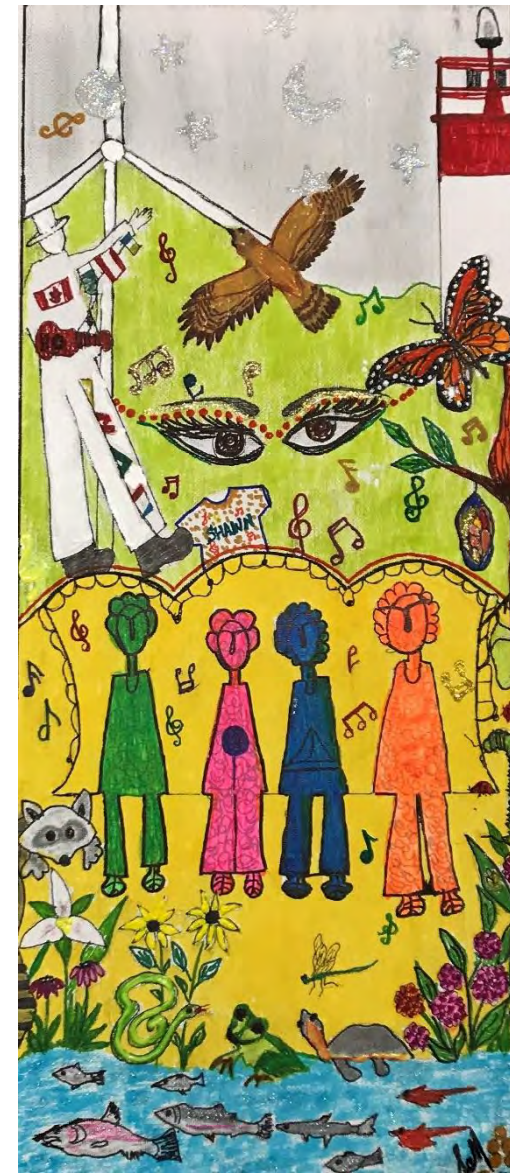
Pickering's Lake Ontario waterfront is one of its great environmental features. Paying homage to the biodiversity of Lake Ontario, this design features native fish and aquatic plants. These featured fish include: pumpkinseed, walleye, Atlantic salmon, rainbow trout, yellow perch, largemouth bass and Northern pike. The depicted aquatic plants are: Water Stargrass (*Heteranthera dubia*), Canadian Water Weed (*Elodea densa*) and Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*).



Sumaira Munir - Nurturing Nature and Culture in Pickering

This Pakistani Truck Art inspired art work is a merest reflection of the thriving nature and culture in the City of Pickering. A city where its clean crisp waters are rearing the fish from eggs to spawning adults, fertile lands are bearing food, nurturing native plants and providing habitat for species at risk.

Where the waterfront and dark skies are gracefully showcasing the talents of artists, singers, astronomers and environmental enthusiasts. Where glimpses of art can be enjoyed in parks, places and festivals. And at the centre of it is a supporting community, watching, working, playing and enjoying the emerging nature a culture of this beautiful city.



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