

Good Evening / Bonsoir

Chers Mme la Mairesse, conseil et l'administration

Nous voici encore, une autre saison terminée et une cinquième qui s'approche. En 2018, nous avons formé un partenariat avec la Municipalité. The purpose of this partnership was to seek Council's approval so that we could work together for the betterment and the beautification of our downtown core. As lead of the Sturgeon Falls Beautification Group, and on behalf of my group I can assure you that this season has been the most successful so far, not only did our group achieve our goals presented to you in our 2020 presentation but in fact, we surpassed them, even while being in a pandemic state of affairs.

Our number of volunteers have also expanded. In 2017, I started by myself and at the end of the season we were 15 volunteers, in 2018, we were 21 volunteers with 55 hours, in 2019, we were 26 volunteers with 103 hours and in 2020 we are at 33 volunteers +15 artists volunteers with 1,020 hours!!

If we take our hours and multiply them by our minimum wage of 14.25, we have a salary of 14, 535. This is just to give you a dollar amount of how much you would have had to pay each of us if we were employed by the Municipality. We were on average 5 volunteers.

We also hit one thousand members on our Facebook group in July. We are now at 1,510, and we are still growing! It's amazing to think that our Facebook page started with 4 members in 2018, and now we not only have members from West Nipissing but from all over the world!

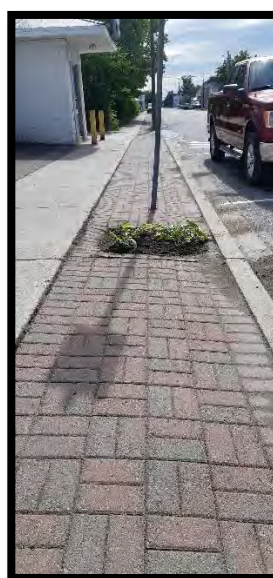
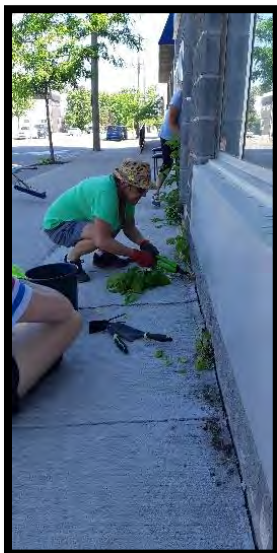
This pandemic highlighted the need to keep our environment clean, our group was in the forefront and as the workforce stalled, many joined forces with us. On our Facebook group, residents rallied together and picked up garbage, businesses, landlords and renters joined in by watering our hostas, residents monitored dog walkers and we moved from awareness to the plan of action stage.

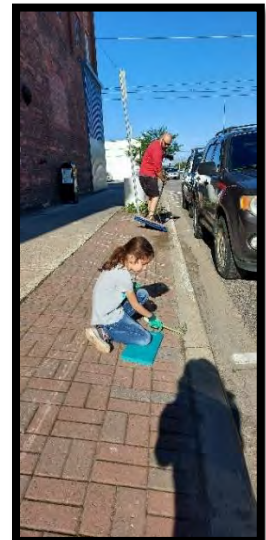
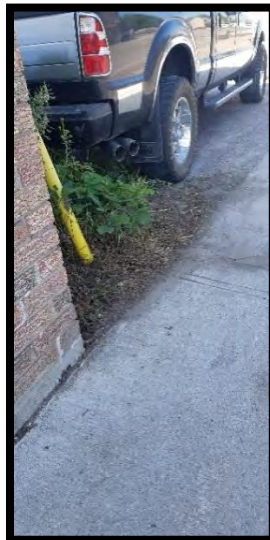
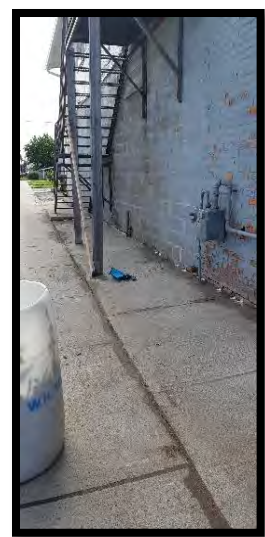
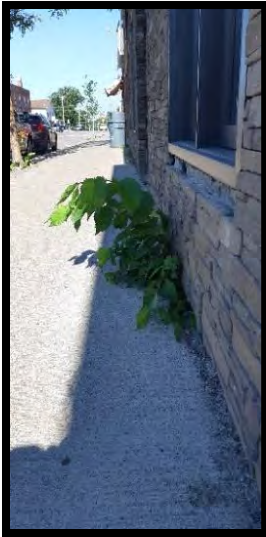
Our group managed to engage the citizens of Sturgeon Falls and our surrounding neighborhoods to become invested in taking care of their community, and to take ownership!

Let's review our season

Cleaning/Nettoyage:

The fountain area: 7, Jacques Cartier: 6, The roses bushes: 5, King Street: 6, Main Street: 4, John Street: 6, Front Street: 4, The convent area: 3, William Street: 5, Queen Street: 3, Town Hall: 1, Minnehaha Bay: 1.





Planting hostas or other perennials/ replenishing hostas (ALL PLANTS WERE DONATED BY RESIDENTS, all we had to do was post it on Facebook)

The fountain area: 2, King Street: 4, Jacques Cartier: 3, William Street: 2, Main Street: 2, Minnehaha Bay: 3, John Street: 2, Town Hall: 1, Queen Street: 2, The convent area: 2.



Spring Cleaning

Notre nettoyage communautaire du printemps

With the help of social media, we modelled community clean-ups. We promoted awareness and provided education with information regarding littering. We encouraged residents to join in our cause by cleaning their yards, their neighborhoods and their streets. The pouring of messages with pictures was immediate, and for those who did not have internet, the word travelled quickly...



Our group found “hot spots” of illegal dumping and with the help of the bylaw officer; we not only cleaned the area but also kept it monitored for further dumping. Not only did we clean Sturgeon Falls but thanks to our Facebook group page, residents joined throughout the Municipality! The greatest of all things happened, it continued throughout the whole season for some residents. As an example, a school in River Valley posted their clean up on our group in the fall. Roy Street residents rallied together to clean their street and wooded areas and then proceeded to do the trails off of Mageau where they collected three truck loads full of garbage in late October.

Now, we cannot say that our Municipality is litterless but we can say that the areas that my group cleaned remained with less litter due to monitoring of these areas with the help of our bylaw officer. Unfortunately, there are many areas where illegal dumping continues. I constantly receive messages and I am tagged on Facebook about concerns related to this issue. We also see it on our clean-ups.

Our collective goal remains to beautify our Municipality. I believe then that Council needs to look more carefully at our litter situation and find better solutions along with an action plan. This is something that we need to address now in 2021.

Here is the list of areas that were reported to me as being cleaned and pictures were provided. It is to be noted that not everyone had the capacity to message me and so we can conclude that more areas were cleaned without my knowledge.

Fifty one (51) areas were cleaned! Some were cleaned more than once too.

Voici les endroits:

- Railway Street and little park at the corner of Railway and King
- Minnehaha Bay



- King and Main (7 times)



- Parking lot of the church on King
- Church St.
- Market St.



- William St. (3 times)
- Clark St.
- Parker St.
- Queen St. (2 times)
- King across the railway tracks



- Third St. (2 times)



- Fourth St.
- Morrison Court
- Riverfront (3 times)
- Demers (2 times)
- Nipissing St. across the railway tracks
- Michaud St. (2 times)
- Rivet St.
- Jacques Cartier
- Hwy 64 to the corner of Crystal Falls Rd, to Tomiko Rd.



- Cache Bay Rd,
- Nipissing St.
- Holditch St.

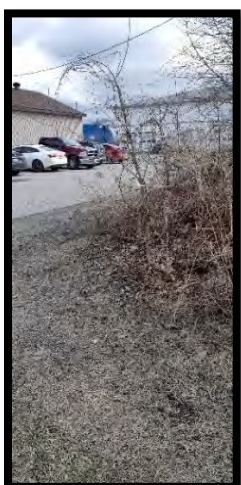
- Marleau Rd.



- Quesnel Rd. (4 times)



- The field behind Mr. SUB and by Lorraine's restaurant



- The Complex and the baseball fields (3 times)



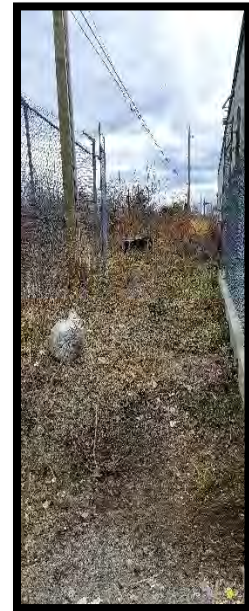
- Ethel St.
- Coursol Rd. (4 times)



- Goulard Rd.
- Parking lot of Northern Secondary School
- Parking lot and front entrance of Franco-Cite

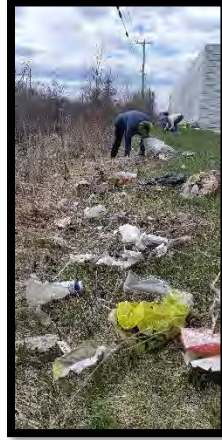
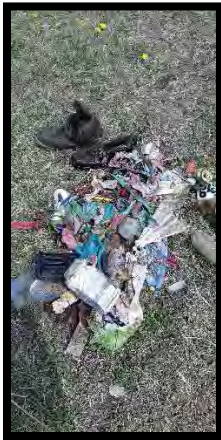


- Dollarama parking lot



- The pole line in Verner
- The football field on John St.
- Champagne Rd. (2 times)

- Red Apple Parking lot area and ditch (2 times)



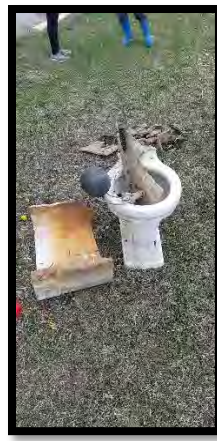
- Glenrock
- Roy St. (7 times)



- Hwy. 17 West, between the bridges and Ottawa St.
- Pierre Rd.



- Behind Subway (2 times)



- Levert Rd.
- Look Out Point
- The Beach
- Levesque St.



- Front St. (2 times)
- John St.



- Woods from Third St. to Roy St.



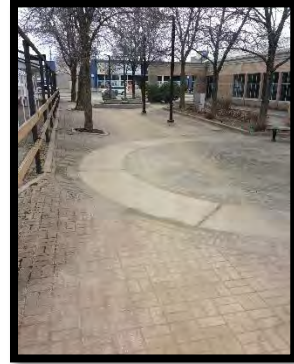
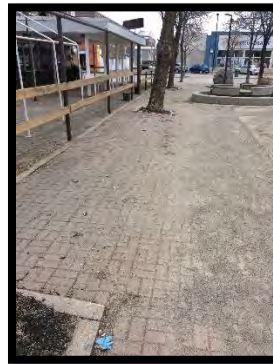
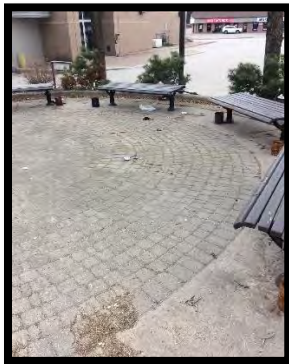
- Mageau laneway



To be noted that this is one truck load out of 3 loads that were taken out of these woods!

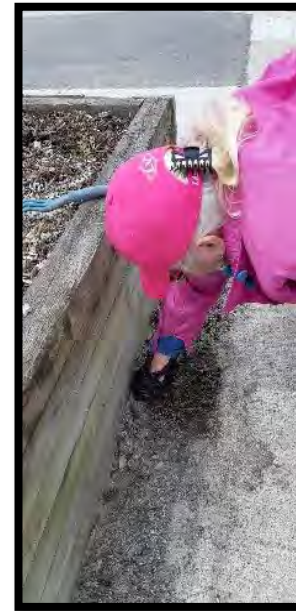
In April, our **“Keep Our Town Clean/Gardons Notre Ville Propre”** signs were strategically placed in areas of need to promote a litterless community. Maps were drawn up once again for placement of garbage and smoking receptacles. Emails, messages, conversations with merchants, and phone calls were placed to promote beautification and cleanliness in our downtown core.

In early spring, while we still had skiffs of snow on the ground, one of our volunteers, Ken Perrin used his blower and picked up all of the sand at the fountain.





Our street cleaning season officially began the first week of May and ended on October 22nd. Every Thursday morning, we gathered together to pick up garbage,



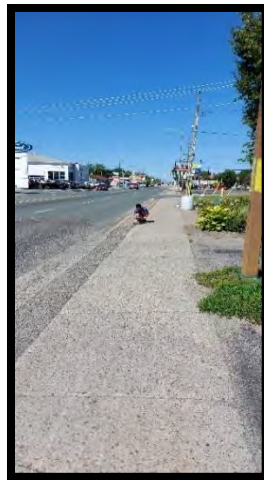
cigarette butts and dog waste. We weeded the sidewalks and the soil around the trees. We made sure the hostas were secured in their habitat and not damaged by animals. We spoke to residents when appropriate and advocated for support towards less littering. This season we added to our cleaning both sides of John, and Front St. We always managed to have fun, socialize and be goofy as many areas were cleaned several times!



Front Street:







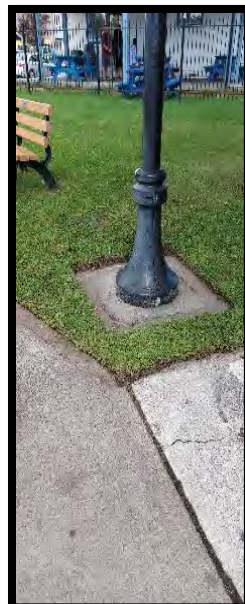
John Street



At Jacques Cartier Park, we took out dead winter plants, and picked up garbage. Borders were carved out along the sidewalk and the flower beds were defined clearly. We then planted perennials donated by residents and the park was weeded. The following month, we dedicated our time again at this park where we transplanted perennials and cut the shrubs and trees. We also discovered landscaping bricks at the corner of Main and Front St. and we proceeded to order more barrels and dug out all of that section. At the end, we were very tired and I had gone through my 4th pair of garden gloves!



Our last cleaning at Jacques Cartier, we weeded and edged all of the sidewalks, renovated the beds by taking out all the plants that were invading and overcrowding the others, weeded, broomed and did another transplanting.



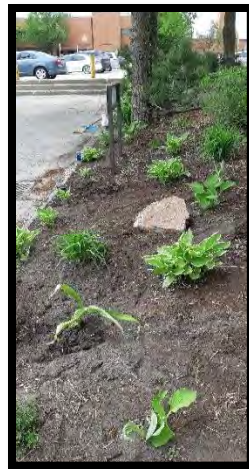
The rose bushes on King and William were weeded and dead headed several times.



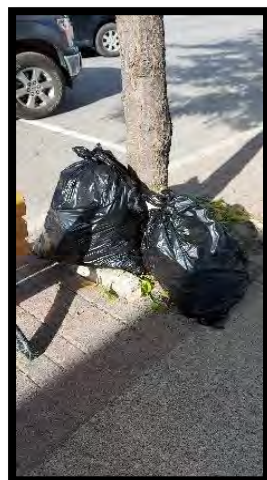
Our Sturgeon fish was recycled from our IPM display. H  l  ne Chayer added background and colour to finish off our majestic sturgeon which was permanently placed at Minnehaha Bay. A bilingual sign was added.



At the fountain area, we pruned trees and bushes, dead plants from winter were taken out, we broomed and picked up garbage and weeded. We also planted donated perennials. The following month, we weeded and cut dead branches. We took out 5 barrels of weeds and branches.



We planted hostas on all streets in the downtown core, and we replenished and watered them several times where needed. I called landlords and discussed our goals and their need to help us with placement of garbage with our hostas.



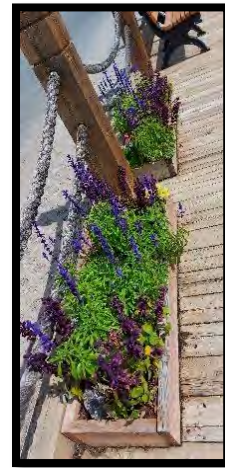
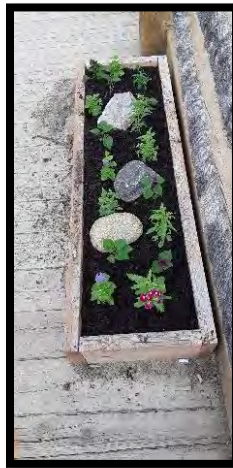
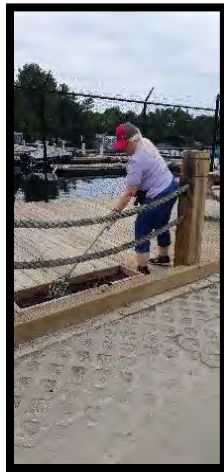
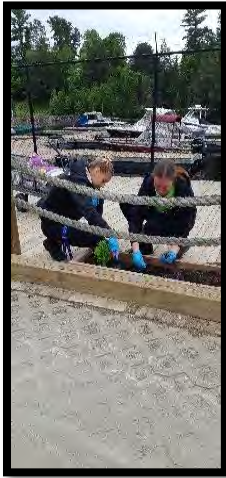
Residents, merchants and tenants were also asked though Messenger, Facebook, and phone calls to help us water our hostas.



A surprise gift organized by myself with Mique Michelle led to the heron bird. Our “Bird Of Hope” remains very popular on the Tribune wall and I often see people taking pictures in front of it. From this mural, Mique Michelle was commissioned by The Riv to do a mural at their chip stand.



We planted flowers along our boardwalk at the marina with the help of our summer students at Minnehaha Bay.

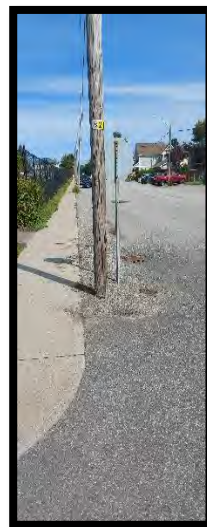
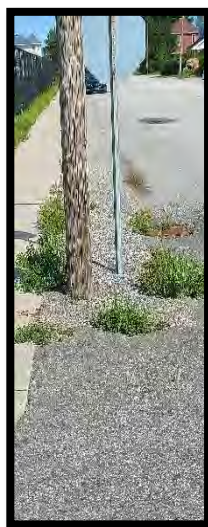
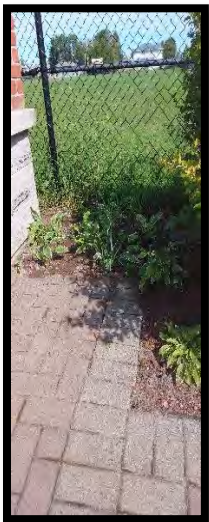
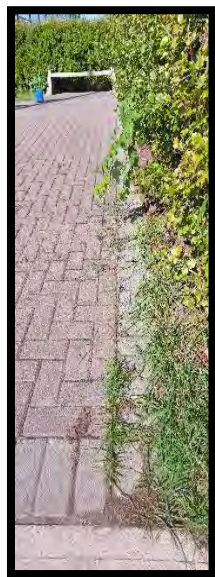


I was interviewed by Moose FM for their program called “Fascinating People.” I was able to talk about our group, our beginnings and what our goals are for the beautification of our downtown.

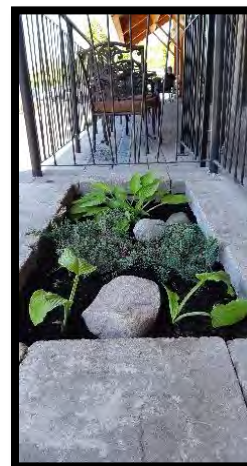
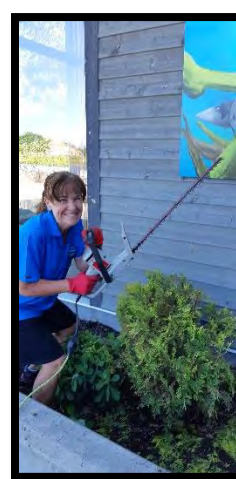
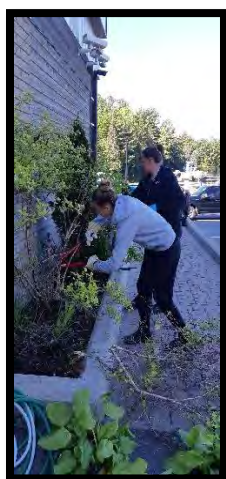
The floral mural fence was completed at the reserved parking lot on King. “Le jardin de Mama Lou” or “Mama Wolf’s Garden” by Aimée Rivet and Cole Baker from the Arts Studio. For once, I can say I actually did paint; this was a fun project to have organized and participated in.



We weeded the convent area; we created borders around the sidewalk, picked up garbage and planted perennial flowers and hostas.



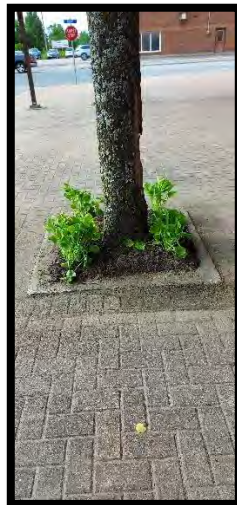
We renovated all of the beds at Minnehaha Bay. Along with the summer students, we took out all the dead plants, bushes, we weeded and added soil. We trimmed all of the bushes, some were intertwined together as this had never been done. We split the already existing perennials flowers and spaced them out along the beds. We planted the donated hostas. It was a huge cleaning!

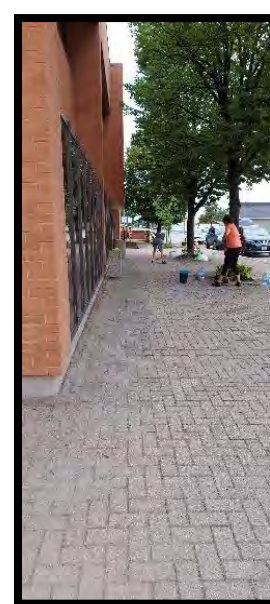


Another mural went up on King Street at La Vie En Couleur/MJD Place by H  l  ne Chayer. She named hers, "Solitude."

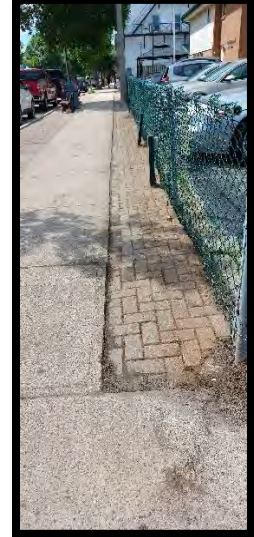
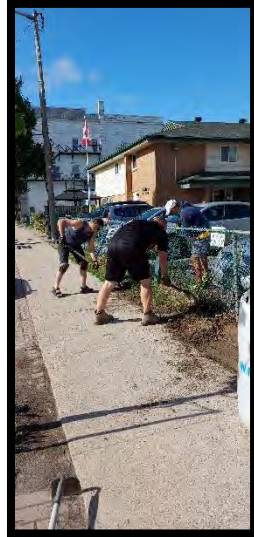


On a Sunday morning, we came to your workplace at Town Hall. We weeded all of the grass in the interlocking bricks and along the building; we broomed and planted hostas underneath the trees.

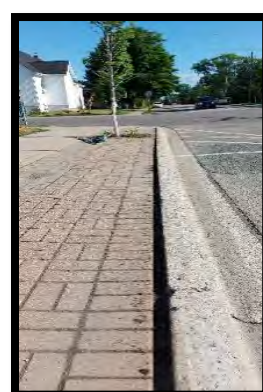
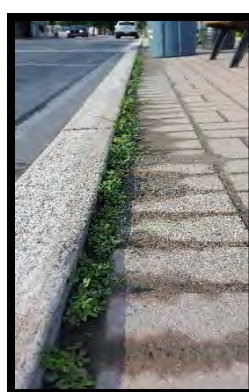


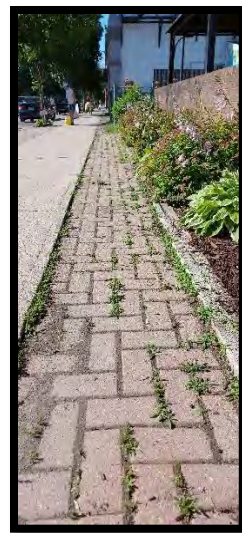


We found new landscaping brick at the corner of John and King. The guys shoveled out all of the dirt, grass and weeds. The weeds were so dense that I remember having to show Dan that yes, indeed there was interlocking brick hidden underneath!!



We also weeded on our knees a whole interlocking section in front of Villa Aubin and a section at the stop sign on King. This had never been done by us, but because we have been weeding repeatedly now for a few seasons, we had more time to dedicate to this area. Every year we notice less and less weeds.





We were interviewed by TFO. We spoke about our pride in our downtown, how we are changing people's attitude and how we are investing in our community.

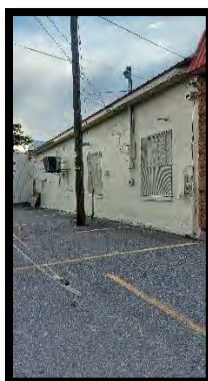
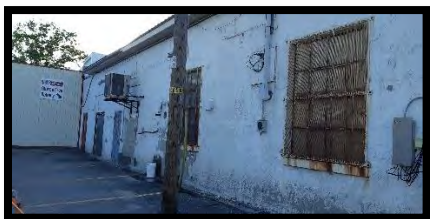
Our next mural to be added to the collection was "La pêche sur le lac Caché/ Fishing on Caché Lake." This mural found its home at the PBL Building at the corner of King and John Street and was created by Flore Dauphinais, Gisèle St-George and Jocelyne Desbiens.



We were treated to a special thank you lunch in recognition for all that we do at the Riv by owners Bruno and Kate and Denis Goupil from Harvest King.



Marcie Cloutier and Simone Desormiers worked along with me and the owners of Lorraine's to create two separate murals. Simone's mural is called "A Time to Relax" while Marcie's is "Precious Moments". Marcie also worked on beautifying a bike that will be placed downtown in the spring.



A mural titled “A Flip Of Faith” by Tracy Louise Decaen was installed at Behind Bars, the new bike shop on John Street.



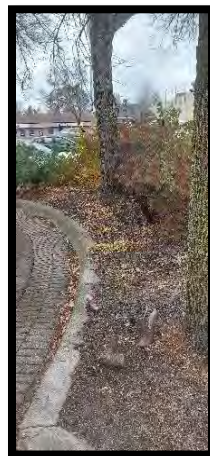
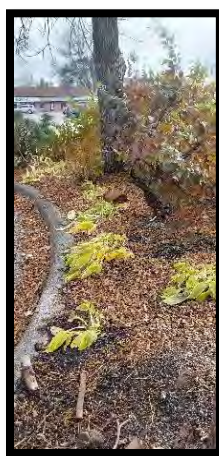
We cut all the hostas downtown to prepare them for our winter.



A mural at Literacy Alliance by Joëlle Myre called “The Well of Knowledge/ Le puit des connaissances” joined the collection. Next to it, Paulyne Charron created a smaller version entitled “Soaring to New Adventures”. These can be seen from William Street.



We picked up all the leaves at the fountain, weeded and cut the hostas. The leaves were used to help one of our residents in composting for his garden. We gathered 12 leaf bags and 10 barrels.



Our trees that were cut down during the summer on Queen Street were grinded as a donation towards our group by Yvon Verdon. Yvon believes in our cause and knows that there is a correlation between cleanliness and pride. This was his way of thanking us.



I was interviewed by Radio Canada where I talked about the beginnings of the making of our group and how we have evolved in the community to our present state.

A tree was planted on William Street. This was organized by Suzanne Louiseize, Lynn Duhaime and myself in conjunction with several groups to commemorate our friend Brenda Morrison. A plaque will be unveiled at a later date.



Four bike racks were bought with private donations. We are looking at the Municipality to put them in place on King Street in the spring.

Our old bench on King will be restored magically, under the talented hands of Raymonde Gaudette and then will find a place in our downtown in the spring.



An interactive angel wings named “Wings of Hope” “Les ailes de l’espoir” were designed by Alexa Jessome and painted by Julie Lafrenière. This beauty found its home at the corner of Main and John. We even installed a solar light so pictures can be taken at night. I included a powerful quote on the mural by Gandhi, “I must be the change I wish to see in the world”. I chose this quote as this is the essence of our beautification group. We each have the capability to bring positive change or to inspire others. We want to continue inspiring our residents as we strive together to make our Municipality a clean, green and a beautiful place to live.



“Fields of Sunflowers” “Le champ des tournesols” by Lori Delorme found its place at The Stop and Shop on King Street. This mural not only adds beauty simply by its bright colours but will also be a welcoming sight when visitors come into our downtown core off the highway. A real ray of sunshine!!



In total this season, 12 new murals were added!!! I worked with businesses and matched artists to complete a vision to embellish our walls downtown. Fifteen artists participated in the mural collection with a total of 618 hours of volunteering. I am presently working on the 2021 season. My goal remains to have a walking art gallery of murals, where it can give residents and tourists a reason to come to our downtown.

With that same vision, we purchased our first sculpture, which we named “Stella Sturgeon” through a fundraiser with private donors; this was followed by our mermaid, which we named “Marina.” We will have our first sculpture on King Street this spring. We raised 9,800 with 82 donors. Stella was instantly a superstar, and very popular. She was on Radio-Canada twice, The Bay Today, The Tribune, Moose FM and of course on our beautification group on Facebook. We want to thank Pierre Lafond from Lafond Towing for his donation of 600.00 in kind for bringing Stella home safely to us.

This was an exciting and fun project to work on with “Team Stella.” Our future goal is to hopefully find some local artists who can help us add to our collection. Again, the vision is to create ambiance, to bring attention and attract tourism to our downtown, and to our Municipality, somewhat like the little town of Chemainus on Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

Stella:



Marina:



And....finally a project that I am really proud to have been involved with, came to a completion: our beautiful lamp posts!



After 4 years of working to beautify our downtown, this pandemic season has highlighted respect and trust from our residents towards my group and I know that we are viewed as an asset in this community. I hope that Council also realizes that we are worth this investment. Our wish is to continue to grow, to beautify, to work together cooperatively to ensure a vision that will make other Northern communities jealous of our Municipality. We are at a turning point, with the influence of people moving here from different areas, now is the time to continue investing in beautification. Residents have spoken to us through media and on the streets about how proud, they are of the cleanliness and how everyone is feeling that sense of renewed pride. We must capitalize this moment and continue to work towards a cleaner, greener and an even more beautiful Municipality.

Budget

With our 2020 budget, we bought 3 permanent black steel benches along with 2 permanent black steel garbage receptacles and a flower pot. These will match our black lamp posts. Due to COVID the order took longer and so they will be installed permanently at the fountain in the spring.

We are requesting funding once again. **We are hoping to be granted a sum of \$20,000.** With this money, we would like to purchase 13 black steel permanent garbage cans to match our lamp posts. These would be placed on King Street in line with either the lamp posts or the trees. Our vision and priority is to make our Municipality clean, green and beautiful then these garbage cans are a good fit. They are durable, are permanent and so they will not be moved around, the covers will not be stolen and they will beautify our streets. The focus is King Street for this season and in hope that we can eventually get all of the downtown completed in the future.



We would also like to request that the fountain be slightly renovated as it leaks constantly and was not operational this season. We would like to work with the Municipality at incorporating Marina, our mermaid sculpture at the fountain. I have already spoken to Jonny about some ideas that are cost effective. Thank you to Don Clendenning for creating this visual representation.



We would like to request that our remaining lights on the trees be installed at the fountain area; this project started 2 seasons ago and was never completed. The lights are still waiting in a room at the Complex.

We would request that the Municipality look into funds/grants to complete the last section of lamp posts on King. The further time that we wait, the more difficult it will be to find a match and of course, prices continue to increase. Perhaps, putting some money aside yearly with a timeline towards finishing the project.

Our last request would be that we form a committee with the Municipality and other partners that are like-minded and propose a plan to reduce/stop the littering on our streets, in our creeks, in our ditches and in our trails.

As for our commitment, we will continue with our cleaning and weeding, all done by volunteers. We will anticipate adding more streets to our cleaning such as the next section of John by the bridge. We will continue to replenish all hostas downtown if needed. We will continue to advocate for a litterless community and we will work with our residents and business merchants to promote beautification ideas.

I hope that you will continue to join us in making Sturgeon Falls and West Nipissing clean, green and beautiful.

Thank you to Jay, Stephan, Jonny, Shawn, Marc, Dave, Dan, Robyn and our Municipal workers for your continued support.

I would also like to thank our bylaw officers Robert Pilon and Frank Savage for working with us this season.

A special thank you to Lynn Duhaime for her friendship and guidance over these past years. It is always a pleasure to work with you.

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. When you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

Anonymous

I would like to thank all the volunteers from the many organizations that help us achieve a better Municipality but I want to especially say thank you to these volunteers who help me achieve a clean, green and beautiful community.

Cleaning/Planting/Cutting/ Thursday Morning Beautification Crew and Weekends

Liette Vachon, Ken Perrin, The Stevens Family, Valerie Buckle-Larivière, Roger Larivière, Katherine Plante, Marie-Anne Pronovost, Theresa Fredette, Diane Mekers-Laferrrière, Gisele Hurley, Terry Clendenning, Edna Webster, Dan Roveda, Jeanne Alexandra, Céline Leblanc, Louise Théorêt Gauthier, Andrée Beaudin-Trottier, Gabrielle Quesnel, Don Brosseau, Joanne Cardinal, Rita Steele, Denise Dutrisac, Christine Théorêt, Lucie Théorêt Brazeau, Veronica Demchiuch, Michelle Schenk, Ryan Morin, Don Clendenning.

Artists

Hélène Chayer, Mique Michelle, Cole Baker, Aimée Rivet, Flore Dauphinais Côté, Gisèle St-George, Jocelyne Dauphinais Desbiens, Simone Desormiers, Marcie Cloutier, Joëlle Myre, Tracy Louise Decaen, Paulyne Charron, Julie Lafrenière, Alexa Jessome, Lori Delorme and Don Clendenning.

Thank you to Isabel Mosseler from La Tribune for covering our mural stories.

Donations (Plants)

Dan and Cynthia Roveda, Edna Webster, Jeanne Alexandra, Marcie Cloutier, Sarah Pitre, Suzanne Davidson-Noël, Joanne Delorme, Cody Primeau-Tuck and Michelle Schenk, Angèle Charles, Nicole Major-Lefèbvre, Don Wright, Marita Roffey, Daniel Gingras and Hélène Chayer, Céleste Auger Proulx, Christine Théorêt, Theresa Fredette, Gayle Primeau.

Donations (Tree on William)

Friends of the Beach, The Kayak Group, The Outdoor Ladies Group, Sturgeon Falls Beautification Group.

Donations (Bike racks)

La Caisse Populaire Alliance, Dan and Cynthia Roveda, RTO/ERO District 44, Bear's Fish Fry, Stuart Seville and Gayle Primeau.

Donation (Beautification)

La Caisse Populaire Alliance

Donations (Stella/Marina)

Pierre Lafond from Lafond Towing, Shirley and Ken Perrin, Cynthia and Dan Roveda, Gayle Primeau and Stuart Seville, Marc Serré, Pierre Gagnon at Better Built Homes, Louise Lagace, Richard and Theresa Fredette, The Fisher Family, Emilie Roussel, Anonymous, Jeanine Beauchemin, Diane Mekers-Laferrière, The Cartier Family, Théodore Noël, Mike Page, Danielle and Jacques Louiseize, Rita Vaillancourt, Céleste and Jean-Luc Proulx, Candice and Alain Brunet, Susie and André Michaud, Rachel Quesnel and Guy Robichaud, Angèle Boisclair and Richard Dumont, Suzanne Louiseize, Theresa Smith, Chantal Trudel Falardeau, Frances and Bruce Cockburn, The Riv, Anonymous, Nicole and Michel Davidson, Nicole Lepage, Fern Nicoletti Nehr, Chantal Kennedy, Sylvie Guénette, Don the Butcher, Andrea Jessup Bain, Renée Ragnitz The West Nipissing Denture Clinic, Shawn Lavigne, Lisa Dumont, Natalie Paquin, Charlene Beeley, Alan Korell and Angèle Vallière, Dan and Joanne Vallière, Jay Barbeau, Paulyne Charron, Alice Giroux Aliments en vrac/Nipissing Food in Bins, Robert Burey, Hélène Chayer, Teresa Fox, Kelly Sherry and Gerry Spooner, Anonymous, Monique Vaillancourt Mageau and Dan, Nipissing Flower Shop, Canadian Tire, Ron Laplante Lawn Guard, Quality Homes, DJ and Sons Construction, Paul Guindon, Mary Lang, Martin Kolditz, Carole and Carl Lecompte CGL Services, Carole Marion, Coco Sultana, Catherine Mayer and Carl Brazeau, Gisèle McMurray and Dan Daoust, Rolly Larabie, Lori Delorme, Dorine Stevens, John Slater, Marcie Cloutier, ASM Stores, Denise Marleau, Anonymous, Marie-Trudel Kirwan, The Stop and Shop, Rivet Insurance, McMackens, Michaud & Lévesque, J.J. Primeau Law.

Businesses/Residents/Organizations who supported us this season

Denis Goupil from Harvest King, Bruno Lepage and Kate Zickefoose Lepage from the Riv, Patrick Vaillancourt, Raymonde Gaudette, TFO, Radio Canada, Moose FM, Julie Ducharme, Yvon Verdon, No Frills, Daniel Aubertin, Daniel Gingras, Marc Côté, Max Vallière, Stuart Seville, Dollarama, The Red Apple Store, Luc Charles Electrical, Marie-Paule Sylvestre Breton and Gino Breton from The Stop and Shop, Jacqueline and Marian Bergeron from La Vie en Couleur/MJD Place, Brian Lavoie, Nanditta Colbert from Literacy Alliance, Savage Rental Equipment, Suzanne Gammon from La Tribune, Joanne and Dan Vallière from Audio Video + Home Furnishings, Simcoe Northern Supply, Candice Brunet from Candice's Kitchen, Aimée Rivet and Cole Baker from the Arts Studio, Mique Michelle, Kyle Primeau, Don The Butcher, Angèle Boisclair and Richard Dumont from Lorraine's Restaurant, Denis Labelle, André Raymond, Austin Horvat, Kevin Woito, Marc Serré, Igor Bifir, Céline Leblanc from Céline's Dental Hygiene, Bay Today, Pierre Lafond from Lafond Towing, Jill Riva, Lynn Bourgoin, The Municipality of West Nipissing, Kristopher Rivard, Simone Desormiers, Marcie Cloutier, Daniel Stevens, Isabel Mosseler, Bradley Aubin, Tim Horton's Pitch In Canada.