

LIFE

Funding secured for Virgil art installation

Project seeks to beautify local streetscape



By Luke Edwards Niagara-on-the-Lake Advance

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Funding has been secured for the public art display planned for Virgil with the help of the NOTL Pumphouse. From left: Coun. Erwin Wiens, Arnie Lepp, Lise Andreana, Ron Clavier and facilitator Gail Kerr. - Dave Van de Laar photo

As Virgil continues to undergo an extensive reconstruction project to set it up for the future, a new art installation will provide a reminder of the area's rural roots.

Funding has been secured for a planned installation at Niagara Orchard and Vineyard Corp. The project will see a piece of artwork by local artist Ron Clavier adorn the streetside wall of the building. It's the latest attempt by the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre to provide public art displays in town, following in the footsteps of programs such as the hydro box beautification project.

"As a local business owner, I understand the importance of enhancing our surroundings and attracting visitors," said Niagara Orchard and Vineyard Corp's Arnie Lepp, who also owns Spirit in Niagara Distillery. "The artwork selected showcases the agricultural community of which I am part of and will undoubtedly resonate with both locals and visitors alike."

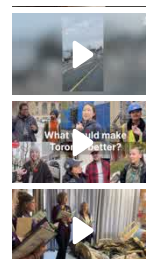
Funding was secured almost a year to the day since the idea was first introduced. All told, it's expected to cost \$23,000. Pumphouse board chair Lise Andreana initiated the project to both promote local artists and beautify Virgil.

"The introduction of this art installation in downtown Virgil enhances the town's esthetic appeal, a reminder to locals and visitors alike of the importance of agriculture and the visual arts in our community."

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Coun. Erwin Wiens, whose business, Erwin Wiens Vineyards, also supported the project, said the project will be a great boost for local pride.

"This art installation representing the town's agricultural roots will transform Virgil's streets and foster community pride," he said.

Clavier said he was excited to have his artwork displayed in such a prominent way.

"I am honoured to be a part of this celebration of both Virgil's agricultural roots and NOTL's vibrant arts and culture community," he said.

The timing for the installation of the artwork is still up in the air, and depends in part on how the Virgil road reconstruction proceeds.

A press release from the Pumphouse thanked the many businesses and organizations that supported the project.



Luke Edwards is a reporter for *Niagara this Week*. He can be reached at ledwards@niagarathisweek.com

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