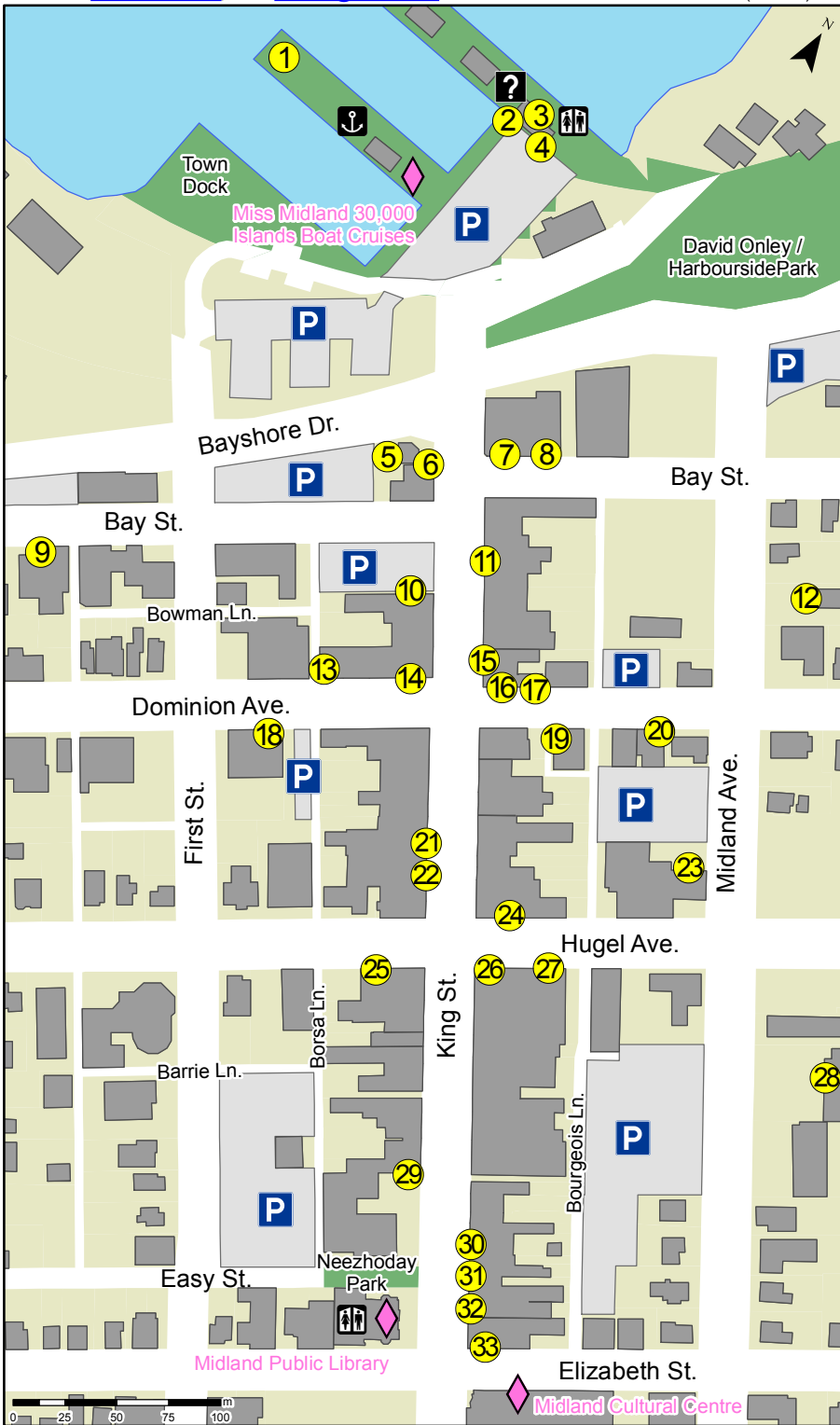




The Historic Murals of Downtown Midland



To learn more about the murals or Midland and its many other exciting events and attractions, please visit www.midland.ca, email tourism@midland.ca or call 705-527-4050 or 1-855-527-4050 (toll free)



About the Murals

1. Huron Native and Jesuit Priest at Sainte-Marie - Measuring 80 feet by 250 feet, this is the largest outdoor historic mural in North America. It depicts a Jesuit Priest and a Huron Native gazing from a hilltop over the Wye Valley and into the nearby village of Sainte-Marie, as it would have appeared in 1640.

2. Great Lakes Cruises - These two ships belonged to the Detroit-based Georgian Bay Lines. They would transport passengers from cities to quiet, picturesque waters.

3. Midland Harbour and Pier - View the harbour and pier as it was in the 1900's.

4. Winter at the Harbour - Our most recent mural, the first featuring a winter scene, is of the Midland Harbour in the 1920's and 30's. Workhorses were used to break the ice so that the ships could come closer to shore.

5. Rotary Mural - A collage of Midland area tourist attractions. In honour of the late Fred Lenz, who painted the original mural in 1994, an image of him painting can be seen in the bottom left corner.



6. Runners of the Woods - See fur traders working with the Huron.

7. The Playfair Preston Company - Interior - Take a journey to the past when a general store and wholesale business operated on the very site of this mural from 1895 into the early 1950's.

8. The Playfair Preston Company - Exterior - This mural shows what this building looked like in the early 1920's. A portion of the third storey collapsed in 1928 during the busy Christmas season and was removed after World War II.

9. A Day for Mary - A reproduction of a Norman Rockwell oil painting. A real wooden frame helps the painting stand out.



10. Brebeuf Lighthouse - Built in the 1900's to help guide ships on course from Giant's Tomb to the channel serving Midland Bay.

See Reverse for more Mural Descriptions >>



About the Murals

11. Saw Mill - The lumber industry played a major role in the growth of the Midland area as shown by this typical saw mill from the 1900's.

12. Butcher Shop - Appropriately located on the Meat Land storefront, this mural is a trip to the past to what a butcher shop looked like in the 1900's.

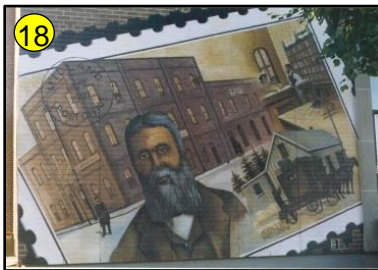
13. Livery Staples - A 20th Century livery stable during the introduction of the automobile.

14. View of Midland Harbour - This painting is based on a photograph taken by J.W. Bald in the early 1900's and reveals how much residents' lives centred on Midland Harbour. Since it was situated at the southern end of Georgian Bay, it was predicted that Midland would become the "Chicago of the North".

15. Woolen Mill - A window back in time showing a woman working on an early sewing machine across from the Woolen Mill Store.

16. Midland Railway Corporation - Station - The station, seen in its past glory, opened in 1879 and was in existence until 1998.

17. Midland Railway Corporation – Engine House – Displayed here are workers repositioning the turntable to allow a locomotive to leave the yard.



18. Midland Post Office and Postmaster - This mural was created to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Midland Post Office. The postage stamp in the image displays Midland in the era of 1885. The gentleman in this mural is Tomas Gladstane, Midland's first postmaster.

19. The Cleaners - The current French's Dry Cleaners location is where you will find a mural which depicts the cleaners in the early 1920's. The truck is being loaded with clean clothes for delivery.

20. Rediscovery of Sainte-Marie - Depicts the excavation of the southwest bastion of the Huron settlement. Based on an 1885 sketch by Father Felix Martin, it was painted by Fred Lenz's son at the age of 14.

21. Druggist - Look up to the second storey and into an apothecary shop of yesteryear where druggists acted as chemists by mixing their own cures as outlined by a physician.

22. Return of the Trumpeter Swans - A mural celebrating the return of this nearly extinct native species which has been reintroduced at the Wye Marsh National Wildlife Area, where they can be seen today. A trumpeter swan sculpture with a 25-foot wingspan is also found at the town dock.

23. Bourgeois Motors Dealership through the Years –This image outlines the history of Bourgeois Motors from its beginning as a garage and gas station to its evolution into a successful Ford dealership. It is found on the back of the building that was once the dealership.



24. James Playfair Shipyard - James Playfair (pictured), who was a successful lumberman, turned to shipping in 1886. In 1915, his Midland Shipbuilding Company started to build freighters like those seen in this mural.

25. The Water Fountain -This painting presents the same corner as it would have looked in the 1920's.

26. H.M. Schooner Bee - The original Bee sailed Georgian Bay from 1871 to 1931. A replica has been made and is docked in Penetanguishene at Discovery Harbour.



27. Playfair Lumber Mill in 1890 - A peek back at the first lumber mill in the area. It was built in 1871 and operated profitably until it was destroyed by fire in 1916.

29. S.S. Lemoyne - This ship was built by the Midland Shipbuilding Company in 1926. It is measured as 663 feet long, 70 feet wide and 29 feet deep. It was the largest bulk carrier on the Great Lakes until the 1950's and held cargo records for coal, ore and grain. Her final voyage was in 1968.



28. Local Photographers -This mural commemorates two famous photographers who had a vital role in recording the history of Midland. Budd Watson (left) is known for his photos of Georgian Bay. Many of the murals are based on photos by J.W. Bald (right) from the late 1800's and early 1900's.

30. Fishing in Midland Harbour - A boy fishes while his dog is looking onward. A lot of murals done by Fred Lenz have dogs or cats to showcase his love for those animals.

31. Benjamin Moore Paints - This is a re-creation of the first in-store advertisement for Benjamin Moore Paints. The original tagline for Benjamin Moore was "Quality-Forever-Moore".

32. The Wye Marsh - Gaze upwards at the wide variety of birds and other wildlife found at the Wye Marsh. Martyrs' Shine is visible in the background.

33. Canadian Guides - A representation the Girl Guides of Canada and Canadian Guiding. The pictures on the border outline tasks the Girl Guides did.

The Midland mural program began in 1990 by the merchants of the Downtown Midland Business Improvement Association. The majority of the murals were created by Fred Lenz (pictured at right). Many other artists contributed to the mural program, including restoring the murals to their original beauty in 2007.

