

Leaving his mark in the North End

Jordan Stranger finishes mural on Sutherland Avenue

BY LIGIA BRAIDOTTI
STAFF REPORTER

NORTH POINT DOUGLAS

Snow and rain delayed his painting but now Jordan Stranger's mural is brightening the portal to the North End.

Stranger, an artist who grew up in Point Douglas, worked for almost a week, beginning Sept. 27, on a mural now painted on the building located at 191 Sutherland Ave., across from the Sutherland Hotel.

His creation was a part of Synonym Art Consultation's fifth Wall-to-Wall Mural and Culture Festival.

Stranger explained that the mural represents change.

"We based it off the four seasons which represents change, and when change comes we are supposed to turn it into something positive, I like to think," he said.

In August, Stranger hosted workshops at

Studio 393, where he worked with youth and helped them explore the idea of four seasons with paintings. He took notes and inspiration from their work and included them in his draft for the mural project.

"The four seasons is a big part of the medicine wheel, and the medicine wheel is very complex and a lot of people have their own specific type that they follow, but I thought it was important to incorporate something from our heritage," Stranger said.

"It is in the North End, and there are a lot of Indigenous people there, and it felt right to honour the community with that and bring a lot of colour and brightness to their community."

The many artists who have painted murals in the North End have worked to a common goal of revitalizing and bringing beauty back to the community. Stranger said art can highlight perspectives, opportunities and ideas to improve the community.

"I find that art is like a key to the soul. It allows you to feel things if it's yours or if it isn't yours. And if it's a mural and it's being put out there in the world, that good energy will find those who need it," he said.

"It's supposed to bring light to people's days when they see it or drive by it every day.



Photo by Ligia Braidotti

Jordan Stranger's mural brightens the North Point Douglas neighbourhood.

It changes people's perspective on a community rather than the status quo."

When he looked at his finished mural, Stranger started crying, he said.

"I am from here. I see the damages that the North End have on people...(I was) able to contribute and leave something behind at that scale.

"I always tell my friends that when I paint I'm painting history because I leave something behind for somebody else to learn from, and I want people to learn from something like that."



Photo by Emilie Christie

Jordan Stranger stands in front of his mural on Sutherland Avenue.

Stranger added he used a new style that is simple enough for people to understand a lot quicker than having to stand there for a long time reflecting and trying to figure out what the artist wants to communicate.

"When it comes to Indigenous culture and the lifestyle and practise, because there's such a misconception of what we do, I wanted to make it very clear what we believe in and what we value," he said.



Remembrance Week Tours at Brookside Cemetery Field of Honour

Did you know that Winnipeg is home to one of the largest Field of Honour sites in Canada?

The week of Remembrance Day is an ideal time to pay your respects to Veterans and Military personnel who are serving or have served our country with distinction and bravery.

The City of Winnipeg's Cemeteries Branch is offering guided tours of the Field of Honour at Brookside Cemetery. Each tour group will:

- Learn what makes Remembrance Day so important
- Find out who the Commonwealth War Dead were
- Engage with the Veterans and active Military personnel in a question and answer period accompanied by a museum display
- Learn about the most decorated Manitoban Indigenous War Veteran, Sgt. Tommy Prince, as well as many other Veterans and their families
- See the only Stone of Remembrance in all of the Americas

School Tours run November 5-9, 2018

School tours operate twice daily at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Schools must provide bus transportation.

Public Tour is November 10, 2018 beginning at 11 a.m.

To arrange a tour, please contact Brookside Cemetery Administration Office at 204-986-4348 or cemeteries@winnipeg.ca.