

Dan Carter

Mayor,

City of Oshawa

2nd Floor, West Wing, City Hall

50 Centre Street South

Oshawa, Ontario L1H 3Z7

Re: Oshawa Murals Restoration

Dear Mayor Carter,

Recently, it was brought to my attention that the City of Oshawa is considering options for the future of its collection of outdoor Murals that visually portray the city's history and culture.

In 1995, I was one of the original mural artists to be commissioned by the City of Oshawa to embellish its downtown buildings with strategically placed outdoor murals. Where once was dull, drab stretches of concrete and brick, there soon appeared colourful, larger-than-life depictions of Oshawa's history for all to enjoy. As Oshawa was one of only a handful of communities across Canada to embark on such a program, there was definitely an air of excitement and anticipation as the historical, cultural and business communities came together to bring creative ideas to the surface. Along with historical sites, museums, special events, musical and theatrical venues, Oshawa now had something unique to draw tourists to its downtown.

After a nation-wide competition, I was chosen to create a mural that depicted the historic Borsberry Music Hall which was originally housed on the north side of King Street, just east of Simcoe Street over a century ago. The chosen location of this mural was the corner of Athol and Celina Streets, which was offered a splendid view from a pleasantly landscaped parking lot across the street. The mural depicts the Borsberry Music Hall as it would have appeared during the Edwardian period. The triptych design in trompe-l'oeil style features an outdoor streetscape, an Oshawa-built 1912 McLaughlin Buick, an interior still-life display of musical instruments, and an arched entranceway that incorporates an existing door to upper-level apartments.

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As the years passed, however, it became apparent that outdoor murals would need periodic upgrading due to weather and damage. For the record, on three occasions, I was asked by the City of Oshawa, through its business intermediary, the Downtown Action Committee to repair, upgrade and restore several of the City's outdoor murals. Due to the fact that many of the original Mural Artists were from across Canada, and after no interest was shown from the few who were local, I was contacted by the City to perform restoration of its murals. I knew several of Oshawa's mural artists personally, and it was an honour for me to become well acquainted with their work and their methods as I

restored them. The most ambitious restoration occurred in 2009, when I was tasked to repair and restore nine (9) of the city's 14 outdoor murals. In addition to my restoration duties, I also prepared Before-and-After Photos, Written Reports and Recommendations, all of which were submitted to both the DAC and the City of Oshawa upon completion.

Over the past three decades, my career in creating murals has taken me across Canada and parts of the U.S. Preservation and promotion of these murals has also been a priority of mine. As an Historian, Historical Architectural Restoration Consultant, and having been the Official Mural Restoration Artist for six (6) Ontario communities, I have the necessary experience and expertise to tackle any given tasks to restore Oshawa's murals to the highest standards. This is accompanied by my ability to promote and educate through public speaking at Rotary Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, Heritage, Museum and Historical Societies, etc. as to the importance and relevance of creating and maintaining historical murals for the betterment of citizens.

I am therefore expressing my interest in once again working for the City of Oshawa as its "agent of renewal" in the quest to restore its mural treasures for present and future generations. Possible Timeline for Restoration of Murals: Spring and Summer, 2025

yours respectfully,

Brian Romagnoli

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