

Good afternoon and Welcome,

Today is about youth, community pride and creative expression and I thank you for participating in this event.

HRM's Community Mural Art project has been running for a year and a half now. It is a program to provide youth with an opportunity to channel their creative expression in constructive ways so that they can see the positive effects of their contributions in the community.

Over the past couple of months youth have been working with local artist, Kate MacLennan, who leads the Community Mural Art Project.

My sincere congratulations on a job well done .You have made us all proud! Your efforts are a step toward building positive momentum in the community. A Proud Community is one that works together to keep it beautiful and clean. It is evident by your thoughtful design and subject matter that you are all truly passionate about creating a diverse and inclusive environment for students in your school and people in the community. It is sincere goals like these that help a community grow into the welcoming environment we all aspire to live in.

I want to conclude by saying that events like this would not have been possible without the commitment and assistance of many people:

- The Halifax Regional School Board for their support of the project
- The Administration at Prince Arthur Junior High
- Art Teacher Ms. Sheryl Haws
- HRM Community Development staff
- and, of course, our talented students