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Human rights mural finds new home

Toronto – A venerable Scarborough company has provided the perfect gallery wall for a relocated community mural.

When arts service organization Mural Routes learned that their mural “Entitlement” was removed due to a plaza renovation at Eglinton Avenue and Brimley Road, the search began for a new wall. The mural was created in 2008 by seven youth artists during a summer training and employment program with Mural Routes, and the hope was that it could remain in the community for which it was created.

D.L. Stevenson and Son Ltd., manufacturers of the paints that were used to create the mural, provided the facade of their building on Warden Avenue. The mural panels were installed at their new home on May 1, 2010. Although the new site is some distance from the original location, it remains within City of Toronto Ward 37.

Councillor Michael Thompson is happy that the mural was relocated to a business within his ward. “This is a great opportunity for Mural Routes and the business community to work together to beautify our community”, he said.

“Entitlement” is a significant mural because it is one of Amnesty International Toronto’s *Project: Urban Canvas* series of murals that depict the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The panels of the mural were inspired by Article #28: “Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in [the] Declaration can be fully realized”. The artists designed and painted 19 panels based on their interpretations of the article.

D.L. Stevenson and Son co-owner Charlotte Stevenson is pleased about the mural’s theme. “We feel very strongly about human rights issues, and although these are serious topics, they have been dealt in a very positive way”, she said. Its relocation seemed fitting to Stevenson because of her company’s close relationship with the organization. “We have had a long association with Mural Routes, so this seemed to be a natural place for the mural”.

A colourful addition to the neighbourhood, “Entitlement” can be viewed on the east-facing wall at 1420 Warden Avenue, south of Ellesmere Road. Its relocation and installation was funded by the Public Realm Office, City of Toronto.

Mural Routes is the only member-based not-for-profit arts service organization in Canada dedicated to the creation, development and promotion of public wall art. For more about Mural Routes, visit their website at www.muralroutes.com . For more information about Project: Urban Canvas, Amnesty International Toronto’s mural series, visit www.aito.ca/urbancanvas/.