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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Huntsville Festival of the Arts Seeks Donations of Used Canoes for Celebration of Group of Seven Artists

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Group of Seven Artists. The Huntsville Festival of the Arts (HfA) is celebrating this momentous occasion with a special art project taking place in downtown Huntsville throughout the summer. Local artist Gerry Lantaigne, known for his work on the Group of 7 Outdoor Gallery, has been commissioned to create seven brand new murals. Each mural will be painted on the underside of a canoe and will feature the work of one of the Group of 7 members. Depending on safety restrictions, community members may have the opportunity to participate by adding their own brush strokes to the works of art.

To make the project possible, HfA is seeking donations of used canoes to be used for the murals. Donated canoes do not have to be in working condition and will ideally be constructed of fibreglass or aluminum (however all types will be considered). Anyone interested in donating should contact HfA by e-mailing dan@huntsvillefestival.ca or calling 705-788-2787. Charitable tax receipts for the value of the canoe may be available.

“We’re thrilled to be leading this project.” says HfA Executive Director Dan Watson. “The Group of Seven are so important to our community and Canada’s national identity. Not only will this project celebrate their legacy, but it will also bring some activity to downtown Huntsville during what is likely to be a quieter summer season.”

Once completed, the seven canoe murals will be displayed downtown temporarily as part of the outdoor gallery and will be included in the 2021 edition of Nuit Blanche North scheduled for July 25th of next year. Following this, the canoes will be auctioned off as part of the Algonquin Outfitters Paddle Art Auction in September 2021.

The project is made possible through the support of the Ontario Arts Council through its multi-arts funding stream as well as financial sponsorship from the Downtown Huntsville BIA.

Full details about the project will be coming soon www.huntsvillefestival.ca

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