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Valois Station gets \$25,000 makeover

By Chloë Ranaldi

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Photo Chloë Ranaldi

Dreary concrete no more.

The city of Pointe Claire unveiled a permanent mural painted on the exterior of the Valois commuter train station tunnel, August 19.

The mural, named *L'Empreinte de l'homme*, depicts the various means of transportation in the city of Pointe Claire.

Pointe Claire Mayor Morris Trudeau explained how “the new mural illustrates the vitality and energy of [the Pointe Claire] community.”

The Valois mural artist Ilana Pichon and her team at MU—a charity organization—painted three sides of the outdoor station, drawing a different story on each wall.

The MU program provides young artists the opportunity to share their creativity and talent around the Montreal region.

“It portrays many different systems of transportation whose development is directly related to the history of Pointe-Claire,” said Mayor Trudeau about the artwork.

“Through shapes, symbols and colours, we recognize various elements that are characteristic of this sector, including major thoroughways, railway lines, and the pedestrian tunnel,” Trudeau commented.

The mural is the city’s third project with the Public Art Committee, which promotes the creation of public works of art, said Mayor Trudeau. The goal is to bring more beauty to a location frequented by commuters, he explained.

MU and the *Agence métropolitaine de Transport (AMT)* partnered with the city of Pointe Claire to bring \$25,000 project to life.

MU Executive director and artistic director Elizabeth-Ann Doyle said that Pichon’s mural artwork is “abstract with many different levels to it.”

In an interview, Doyle told *The Suburban* that “it draws people to discover the work”

“Mue is a French expression that is used for shedding the skin and rejuvenation,” said Doyle, adding how “the mural transformed the station’s old concrete walls into a piece of art.

“We are proud to be associated with the City of Pointe Claire for this project,” said AMT vice president, operations, Stéphane Lapierre.

In addition, the MU has a youth program that is aimed at youth aged 13-17. Another MU Youth program in the city of Pointe Claire entailed a summer project where teens were invited to paint on the sidewalks, said Doyle.

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