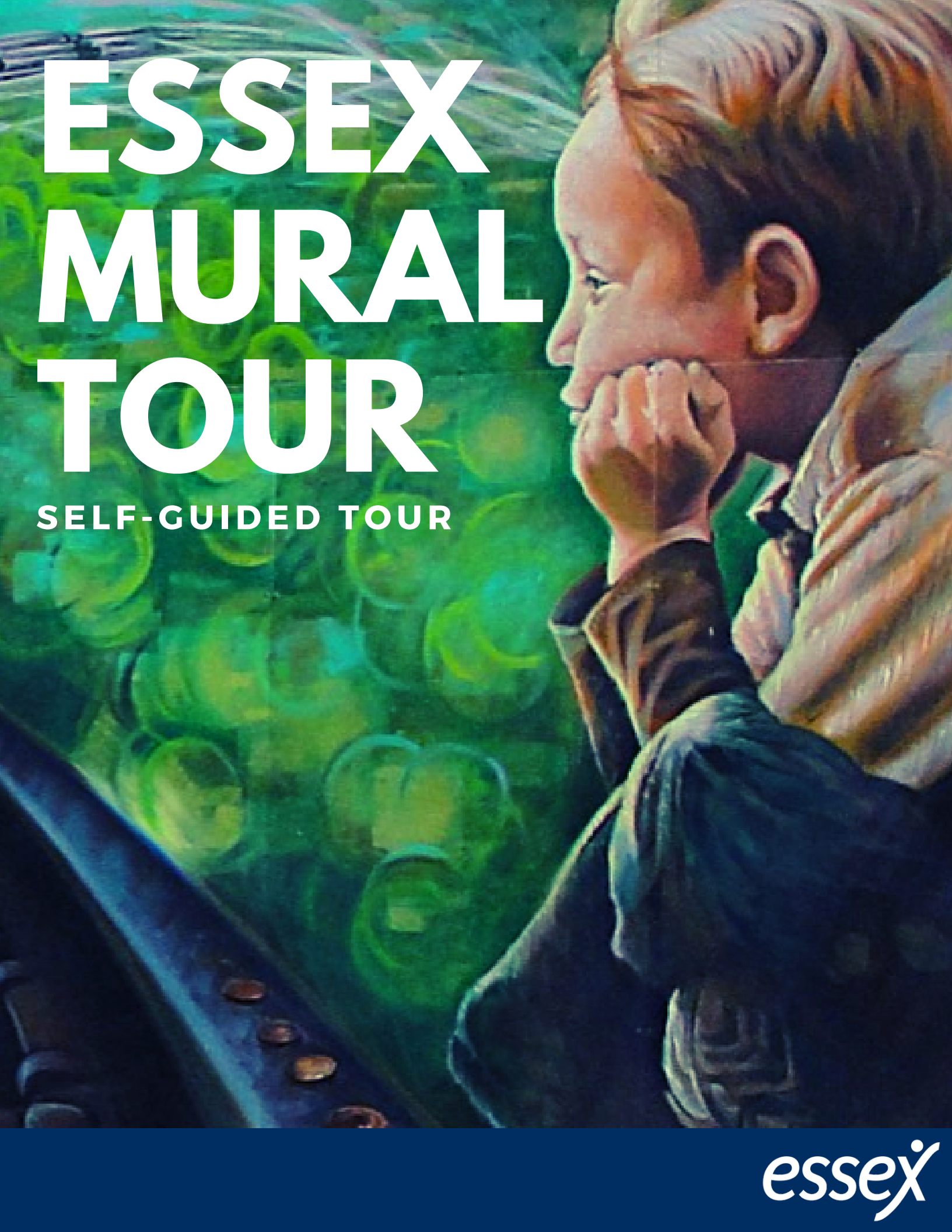




ESSEX MURAL TOUR

SELF-GUIDED TOUR



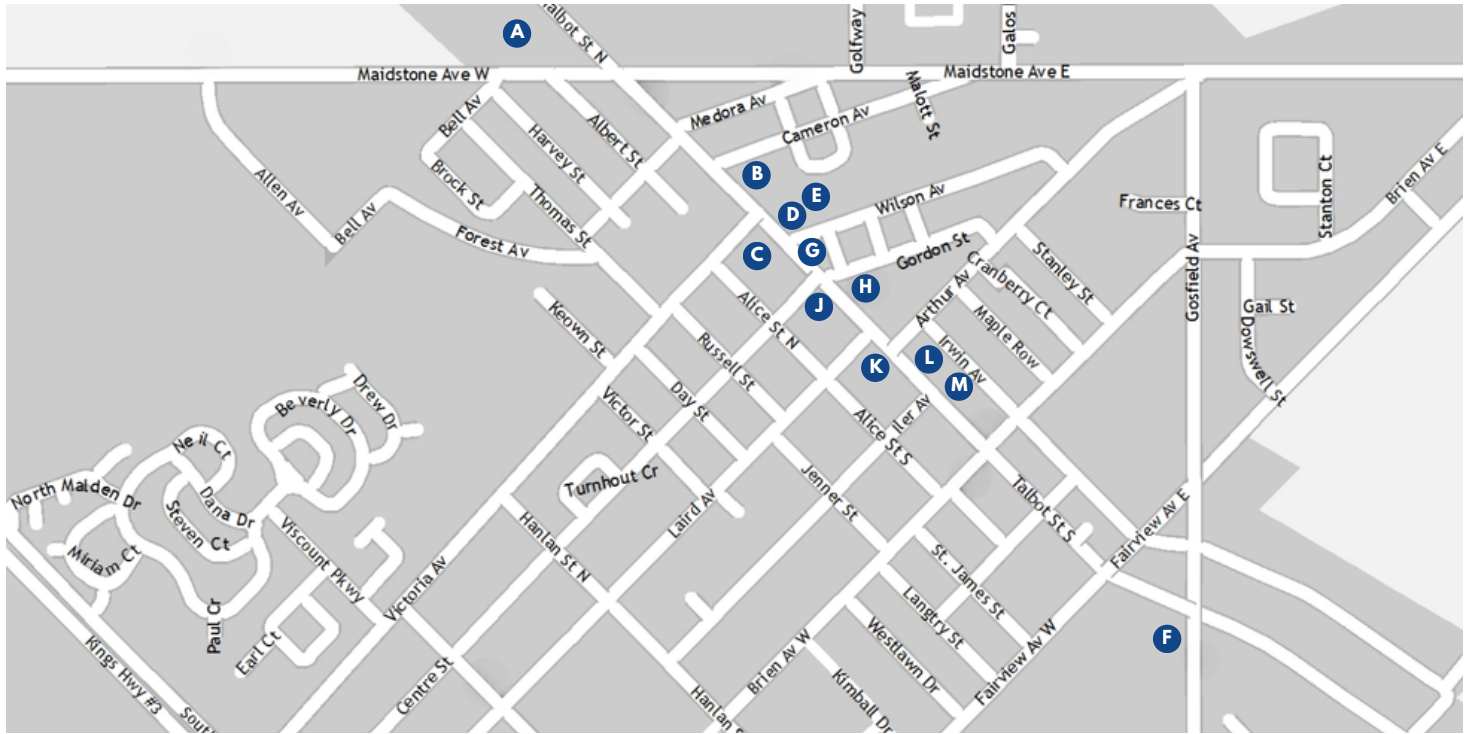
STORIES THAT GREW A COMMUNITY

This little town has many stories to tell. Stories of challenges and stories of triumphs. Human ingenuity and determination have made Essex a town of ideas and inventions that have transformed the way we live.

Through this self-guided tour, discover the fascinating murals on buildings and Bell telephone boxes throughout the community that tell the stories of Essex and its past.

- 1 **ESSEX CENTRE MURALS**
- 2 **COLCHESTER & HARROW MURALS/SCULPTURE**
- 3 **BELL BOX MURALS IN ESSEX CENTRE**
- 4 **BELL BOX MURALS IN COLCHESTER & HARROW**
- 5 **MONUMENTS**
- 6 **MURALS OF THE PAST**

1 ESSEX CENTRE MURALS



A Sports in Essex

by Dan Lessard

Restored by David Creed, Christy Litster | 2026
Essex has a provincewide reputation in sports achievement. This mural depicts some of the people who have proudly represented Essex in amateur and professional sports across Ontario and around the world.

Location: Essex Recreation Complex

[Open in Google Maps](#)

D Our Rural Roots

by John Hood

As home to the first agricultural office in Ontario, Essex celebrates its rural roots in this mural depicting nostalgic scenes from the early days of farming.

Location: Dollar Tree (Side)

[Open in Google Maps](#)

G Supportive Roles

by Irene Sekersky | 2019

This colourful, engaging, and vibrant mural was designed to bring a lively and diverse atmosphere to the parkette and downtown area.

Location: Essex BIA Parkette

[Open in Google Maps](#)

B Liberation

by Layne Vanloo, Elaine Guitar, Johanna Johnson

Restored by Christy Litster, Darryl Litster | 2024

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Dutch community commissioned this mural depicting Holland's liberation by Canadian soldiers, including the Essex Scottish Regiment, in 1945.

Location: Royal Canadian Legion

[Open in Google Maps](#)

E Our Station - Our Town

by Charlie Johnston | 2014

For more than 125 years, the railway wove its path through Essex, a vital artery for the community, yet it also bore the weight of sorrow during the tragic explosion of 1907, ignited by a train car laden with nitroglycerine.

Location: Dollar Tree (Rear)

[Open in Google Maps](#)

H The Tradition Continues

by John Hood

The Kingsville-Essex Associated Band is the longest continuously operating community band in Canada. This threepanel mural depicts the progressive styles of this award-winning band, which continues the pride and traditions set out by its founders in 1937.

Location: DPM Insurance Group

[Open in Google Maps](#)

C Fiery Rebellion

by Milica Yaksich

Angry over high tolls and the poor condition of Talbot Road from Essex to Oldcastle, a group of disguised locals, followed by a cheering crowd, set fire to four tollgates in July 1896. When police investigated, they found no one who could identify the conspirators.

Location: Behind Essex Fire Station 1

[Open in Google Maps](#)

F Edward Charles Maedel

by Chris Renaud, HCA Mindbox | 2023

Edward Charles Maedel founded Maedel Beverages in Essex in 1908. He was a community-minded individual who supported various organizations, as depicted in this mural that showcases his many contributions.

Location: Maedel Community Centre

[Open in Google Maps](#)

I Rotarians in Service

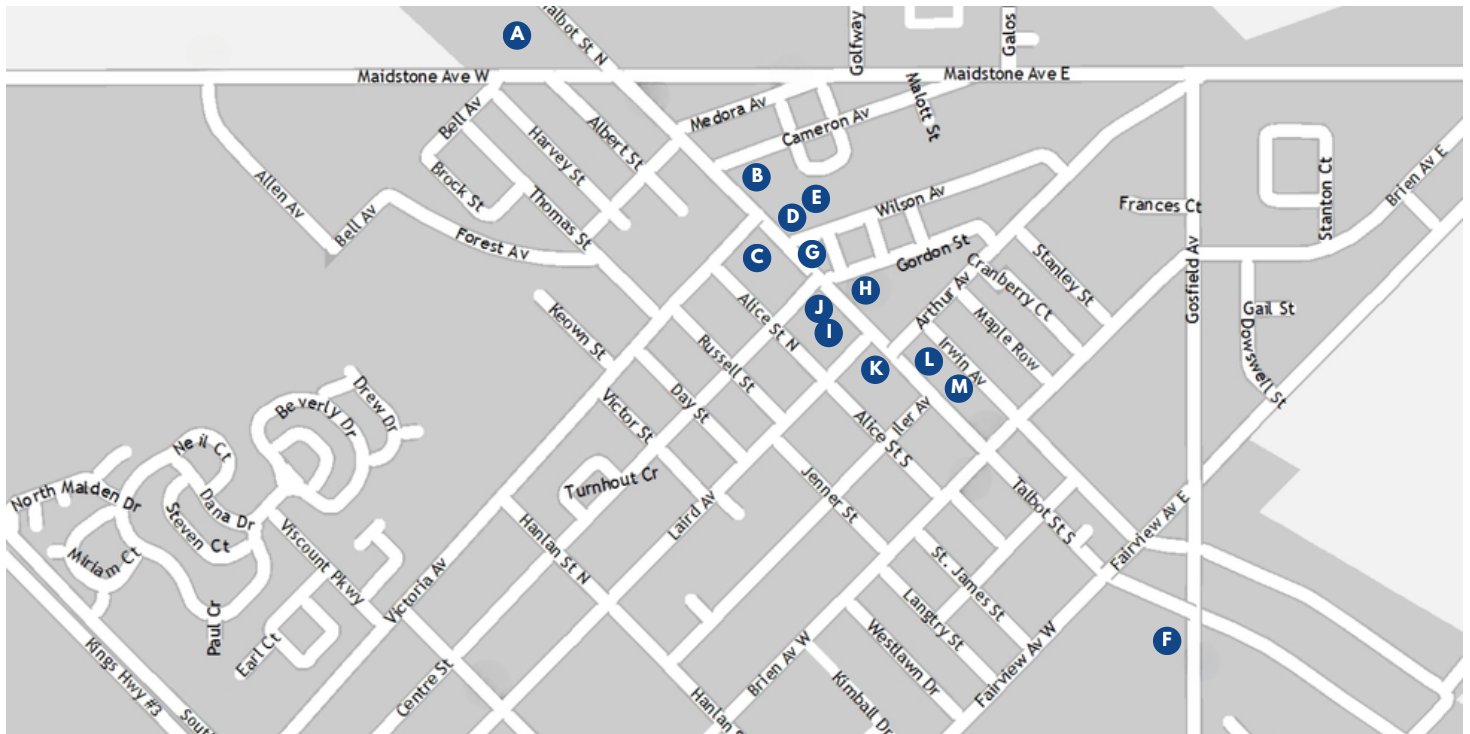
by Brian Romagnoli

Seventy years of service throughout the community and around the world are depicted in this Essex Rotary Club commemorative mural.

Location: Coming Soon - In Restoration

[Open in Google Maps](#)

1 ESSEX CENTRE MURALS



J Corner Grocer by Bruce Bezaire

Welcome to Raines Grocery Store. This mural invites you to walk in and place your order with owner Arthur Raines, an early mayor of Essex who is said to have given penny candy to children while their mothers shopped.

Location: Talbot St. N. & Centre Street

[Open in Google Maps](#)

K Wasco Innovations by Brandon Walker

Invention and innovation are celebrated in this mural. Damaged engine blocks became a thing of the past when John H. Wass invented the valve seat. Wasco Valve Seat Co. went on to manufacture specialty tools for WWII military vehicles.

Location: Talbot St. S. & Arthur Avenue

[Open in Google Maps](#)

L A New Era by Brian Romagnoli

When the new Town of Essex was established on January 1, 1999, it united four communities. This mural depicts the municipal leaders from each of the four communities with a central focus on the new town's first female mayor, Joan Flood.

Location: Essex Town Hall

[Open in Google Maps](#)

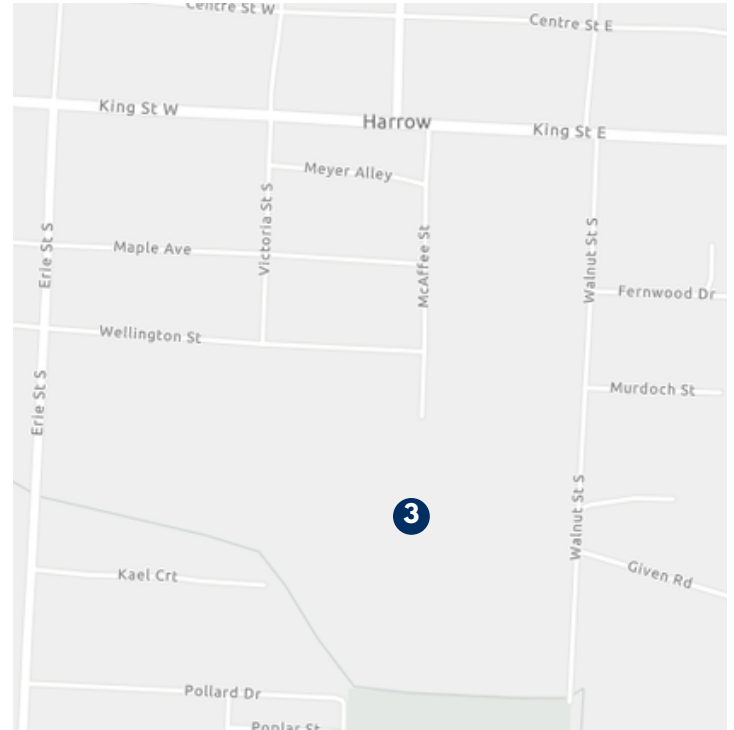
M Scouting Through the Years by Milica Yaksich

This memorial to Cub Scout Jeff McMurren is also a celebration of Scouting and its local leaders since 1947.

Location: Former United Church Building

[Open in Google Maps](#)

2 COLCHESTER & HARROW MURALS/SCULPTURE



1 Wreck of the M.I. Wilcox by Christy Litster

This vibrant mural depicts divers exploring the wreck of the M.I. Wilcox off the coast of Colchester. Fish swim through the ship's remains, and the ship's wheel is encrusted with mollusks, showcasing the thriving marine life that now calls this historic wreck home.

Location: Colchester Splash Pad

[Open in Google Maps](#)

2 Colchester Harbour PhotoOp Stop by David Creed and Christy Litster

This freestanding sculpture, designed as a postcard, features scenes of boating, a blue heron perched on the rocks, and trees gracefully arching over the water. Take a moment to snap a photo overlooking the picturesque scene and share the beauty with family, friends and all your followers!

Location: Colchester Harbour

[Open in Google Maps](#)

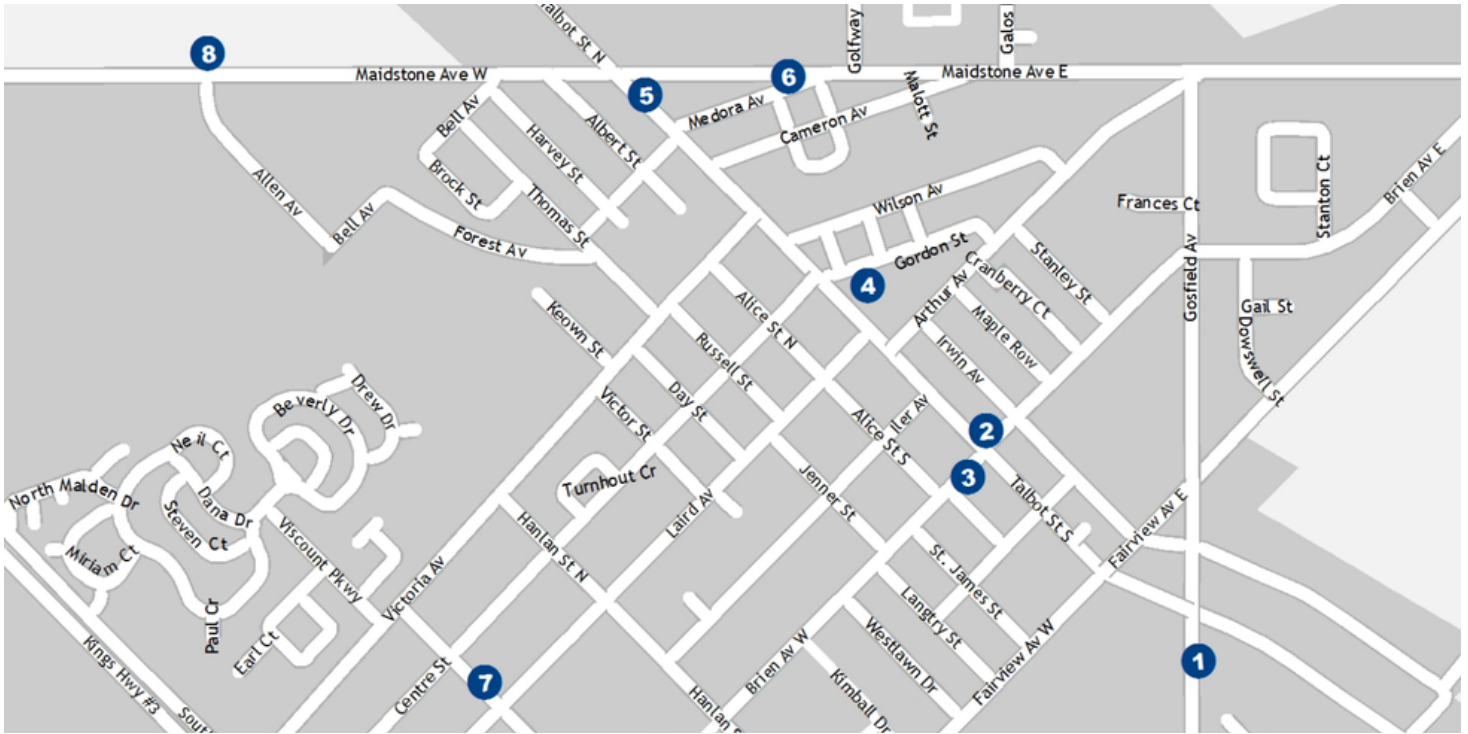
3 Flora and Fauna by Aleks Andra Wadas

This mural showcases the flora and fauna of Essex and Harrow. A white swan glides over a pond populated with a variety of local species. The blue of the water and sky forms a serene backdrop, highlighting the natural beauty of the region.

Location: Harrow Splashpad

[Open in Google Maps](#)

3 BELL BOX MURALS - ESSEX CENTRE



1 Quilting History

by Vera Graham

Inspired by a photograph of a woman quilting in a ham curing barn (circa 1940), this mural evokes the history of the Underground Railroad which brought many freedom seekers to Essex County. Quilt patterns were used to signal whether it was safe for someone to stop.

Location: Gosfield Townline West near Talbot Street South

[Open in Google Maps](#)

4 Stayin' Alive

by Marilyn McLean

Notes float out of a tuba and around to the other side of this Bell Box. The musical theme was selected to compliment the large-scale mural called "The Tradition Continues" alongside it.

Location: Talbot Street North and Gordon Street

[Open in Google Maps](#)

7 Through the Ages

by Christine Dexter

This mural traces the development of farming from the first settlers who cleared the land for logging to the farmers who now cultivate it beneath industrial turbines.

Location: Milne Street and Laird Avenue

[Open in Google Maps](#)

2 Queen and Wigle's Ford Garage

by Susan Dupont Baptista

Automotive pride has always been strong in Windsor-Essex. This depiction of Queen and Wigle's Ford Garage celebrates this important part of our heritage.

Location: Brien Avenue East near Talbot Street

[Open in Google Maps](#)

5 Essex in Bloom

by Jessica Azar

People, plants and pride ... growing together. The Town of Essex has participated in the Communities in Bloom program for many years, encouraging local residents and businesses to take pride in their property. This mural depicts native flowers and greenery commonly found in our town.

Location: Maidstone Avenue East near Talbot Street

[Open in Google Maps](#)

8 Love of Sports

by Leyla Munteanu

Hockey, basketball, gymnastics and tennis are depicted on this mural, which honours our strong passion for sports of all kinds

Location: Maidstone Avenue West at the end of Allen Avenue

[Open in Google Maps](#)

3 Barn Mural

by Lorelei Hotz

This countryside scene depicts the simplicity of rural life. A single chicken exits the open door of a classic red wooden barn.

Location: Brien Avenue West near Talbot Street

[Open in Google Maps](#)

6 Before the Storm

by Martin Lacasse

This historical piece depicts British ships on Lake Erie before their defeat at the Battle of Lake Erie (September 1813). When the British withdrew from Fort Amherstburg, Essex County was subject to 15 months of American occupation.

Location: Maidstone Avenue East across from entrance to 33 Maidstone Avenue

[Open in Google Maps](#)

4 BELL BOX MURALS - COLCHESTER & HARROW



A Beauty in Small Places

by Christine Dexter

The Monarch butterfly, and the milkweed that sustains it, is an iconically beautiful symbol of Essex County.

Location: Roseborough Road, north of King Street

[Open in Google Maps](#)

B Visit Harrow and Colchester

by Marilyn McLean

Many of the Bell Box murals carry over to the sides and back of the box? This scene that marries lake and land does just that and also encourages people to "Visit Harrow & Colchester."

Location: Erie Street North, north of King Street

[Open in Google Maps](#)

C North 42 Wine Country

by Lorelei Hotz

This sunset image celebrates "North 42 Wine Country" from its location just a few minutes north of the 42nd parallel on Erie Road. If you travel south on Erie and keep your eyes on the road, you should see the big "42" marking the exact point on the circle of latitude where it falls.

Location: Erie Road South, south of King Street

[Open in Google Maps](#)

D View from the Veranda

by Susan Dupont Baptista

"View from the Veranda" celebrates the contrast between land and lake by providing two different views – a rustic vineyard on the front and an unobstructed view of Lake Erie on the back.

Location: King Street West, west of Victoria Street

[Open in Google Maps](#)

E Barn and Truck

by Leyla Munteanu

This pastoral scene celebrates our area's farming heritage in brilliant greens, reds and blues.

Location: Victoria Street North, between Sinasac Street and Munger Avenue

[Open in Google Maps](#)

F Train

by Ted Hamer

This mural is a celebration of Hiram Walker's railroad, the Lake Erie and Detroit River Railway and its impact on the growth of development of Harrow. Trains ran from Windsor to Harrow until 1992.

Location: Walnut Street North, north of King Street

[Open in Google Maps](#)

G The Boys are on the Boat

by Vera Graham

This large lakeside scene depicts women on the beach and cleverly hints in its title – "The Boys are on the Boat" – at what's missing.

Location: Arthur Street South, south of King Street

[Open in Google Maps](#)

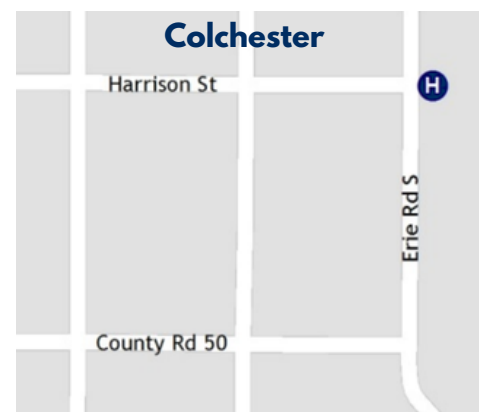
H Watching the Grapes Grow

by Tak Bui

"Watching the Grapes Grow" invites you to take a seat, lift a glass, and enjoy the view. Vineyards and farm fields like this one dot the landscape around Harrow and Colchester.

Location: County Road 13 at Harrison Street, Colchester

[Open in Google Maps](#)



5 MONUMENTS



Essex Memorial Spitfire

Located in Heritage Gardens, the Essex Memorial Spitfire is a full-scale replica World War Two MK-IX Spitfire situated on a plinth. The Essex Memorial Spitfire monument honours all Essex County RAF and RCAF veterans, but is especially significant to Essex Centre, home of Jerry Billing, a Second World War Spitfire pilot who was shot down three times in the course of making 250 sorties over Malta and Normandy. In 1995, the President of France made Billing a Chevalier dans l'Ordre National du Merité (Knight of the National Order of Merit) for his contribution to the liberation of France.

In addition to the monument, an Honour Wall has also been erected that is engraved with the names of 1,405 residents of Windsor-Essex County who served in the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.

Location: Heritage Gardens

[Open in Google Maps](#)

6 MURALS OF THE PAST



Forest Transformation

by Theodore Ziegler

It's hard to believe that dense forest once surrounded Essex. James Naylor established Naylor Cooperage and Lumber Mill in 1882 to make barrel staves and agricultural tools. This mural depicted the mill and lumber yard that helped transform the landscape and was located at 47 Wilson Avenue.



Streetcar Days

by Alexandra Hood

This mural honors the first streetcar in Essex, which began service in 1908, connecting Windsor, Essex, Kingsville, and Leamington. It was the county's fastest transportation until the Great Depression and the rise of automobiles led to its decline. The mural was situated at the corner of Gordon and Station streets.



Endangered Species

by Ron Suchiu

The mural celebrated the valiant Essex area pilot, Jerry Billing, and his iconic Spitfire aircraft, honoring his legacy as a Second World War veteran. It depicted the courageous pilot scaling the wing, poised for a daring D-Day sortie. This mural formally graced the corner of Arthur Avenue and Maple Row.



Transportation

by Brian Romagnoli

This mural told the story of a stagecoach journey from Essex to Windsor while displaying key transportation milestones including Canada's first motorcycle, an early tractor, and one of the first automobiles. It was located at the corner of Station Street and Gordon Avenue.



All Things Essex

by Dan Sawatsky

This captivating mural honoured the legacy of the Essex Railway Station, built in 1887. The majestic alvar stone station made Essex a key transportation hub and vibrant shipping center, lasting long after the trains ceased. This mural once adorned the location where Our Station-Our Town now stands.



Sharing the Past

by Dennis White

This mural depicted the first CIBC bank in Essex, bringing past and present together as it spanned from a screen-door shanty built in the early 1880s to a more modern banking service. It was located on the CIBC building at 33 Talbot Street North.