

## Tour of Fresco Murals in Downtown Sherbrooke



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## Trompe l'Oeil Art That Will Take Your Breath Away!

- Discover our heritage
- Let yourself be captivated  
by our public spaces
- Discover our colourful past



Rent the iPad tour from the following locations:

- Tourist Information Office**  
785, rue King Ouest • 819 821-1919  
Sans frais: 1 800 561-8331  
destinationsherbrooke.com
- Musée de la nature et des sciences**  
225 rue Frontenac • 819 564-3200  
naturesciences.qc.ca
- Société d'histoire de Sherbrooke**  
275 rue Dufferin • 819 821-5406  
histoiresherbrooke.com

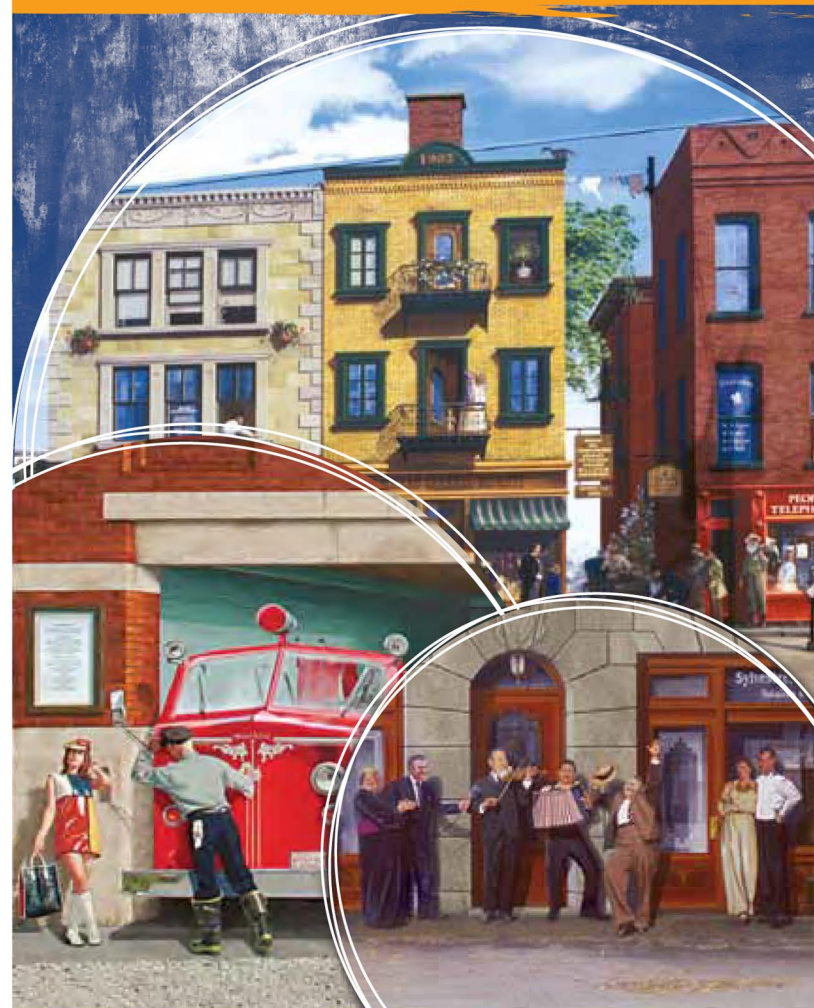
destination SHERBROOKE.com Sherbrooke La Tribune

## Land of Fresco Murals

Sherbrooke!

2013 Edition

Art, history and discoveries



- 13 monumental frescoes
- More than 225 characters
- Accessible year-round

### Stop #1, King Street West

## Upper Mills



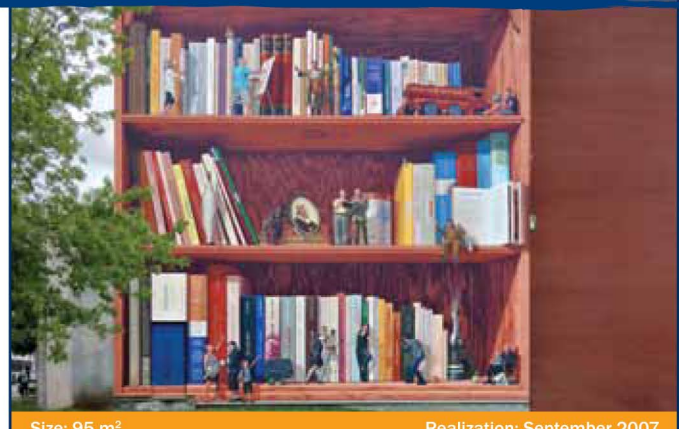
Size: 78 m<sup>2</sup> Realization: September 2009

Highlighting the area once known as Upper Mills, this mural provides a glimpse of the businesses that were once found on the street where the Tourist Information Bureau is currently located. The flight of stairs going down to the Magog River Gorge takes us back to 1867.

The Tourist Information Bureau's foundations give the impression that the main floor was built on top of an old farm building transformed over the years into a factory powered by energy from the first hydro-electric dam, which built in 1827 and known as Upper Mills. Sherbrooke's characters who made their mark on our city's history along with other characters who have sprung from the imagination of our muralists.

### Stop #2, Belvedere Street North

## Heart, Culture and Education

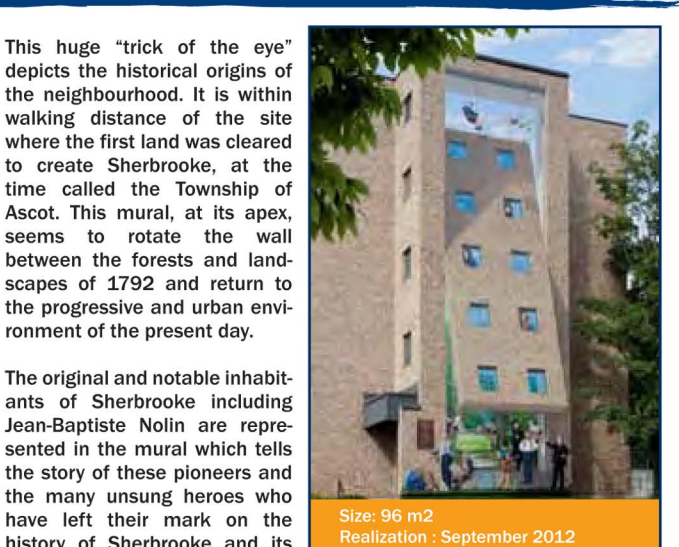


Size: 95 m<sup>2</sup> Realization: September 2007

This fresco mural evokes the history of this neighborhood rich with culture, literature and knowledge. This work of art is a series of facts and fiction woven together by the various factories that were once the economic pillars of the neighborhood: the Lomas, the Paton and the Kayser. An image, across from the Eva-Sénécal Library, where the floors of the Collège du Sacré-Cœur take the shape of a library's shelves on which multiple characters look like Lilliputians next to gigantic books - the giants of the Eastern Townships' literature. This fresco mural represents an allegory of our cultural wealth's cradle, a metaphor of the Eastern Townships' literary universe where over a hundred of its most prominent authors can be found.

### Stop #9, Wellington Street South

## Destinies and Origins



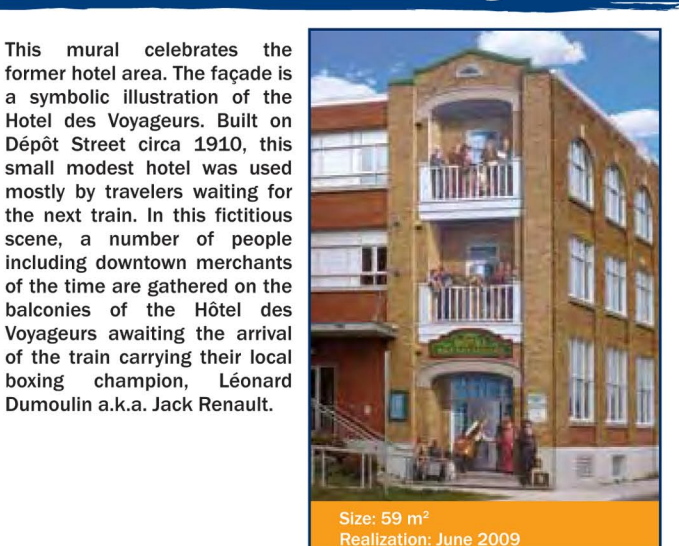
Size: 96 m<sup>2</sup> Realization: September 2012

This huge "trick of the eye" depicts the historical origins of the neighbourhood. It is within walking distance of the site where the first land was cleared to create Sherbrooke, at the time called the Township of Ascot. This mural, at its apex, seems to rotate the wall between the forests and landscapes of 1792 and return to the progressive and urban environment of the present day.

The original and notable inhabitants of Sherbrooke including Jean-Baptiste Nolin are represented in the mural which tells the story of these pioneers and the many unsung heroes who have left their mark on the history of Sherbrooke and its community.

### Stop #10, Dépôt Street

## The Traveler's Lodge



Size: 59 m<sup>2</sup> Realization: June 2009

This mural celebrates the former hotel area. The façade is a symbolic illustration of the Hôtel des Voyageurs. Built on Dépôt Street circa 1910, this small modest hotel was used mostly by travelers waiting for the next train. In this fictitious scene, a number of people including downtown merchants of the time are gathered on the balconies of the Hôtel des Voyageurs awaiting the arrival of the train carrying their local boxing champion, Léonard Dumoulin a.k.a. Jack Renault.

### Stop #3, Frontenac Street

## 100 Years at Your Service



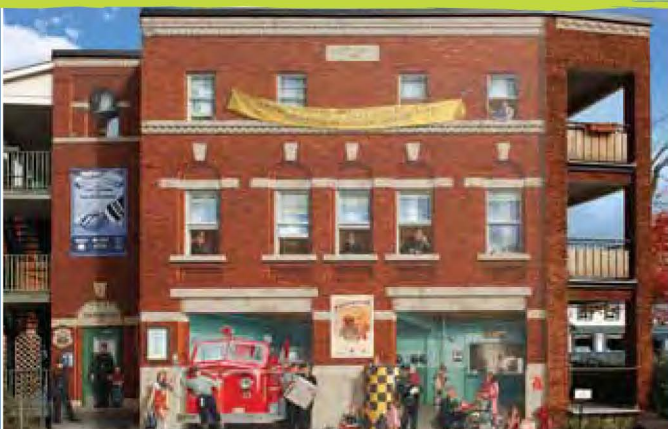
Size: 29 m<sup>2</sup> Realization: September 2006

This mural commemorates the centennial of the municipalisation of electricity in Sherbrooke. On May 1, 1908, the city of Sherbrooke acquired the Frontenac power station and all of the assets of the Sherbrooke Power Light & Heat Co., sole purveyor of the power at the time.

It took four referendums and almost six years of work by municipal councillors Daniel McManamy and Donat Denault in particular, before this property came public. Today, Hydro-Sherbrooke is one of Sherbrooke's flagships.

### Stop #4, Marquette Street

## Tradition and Prevention

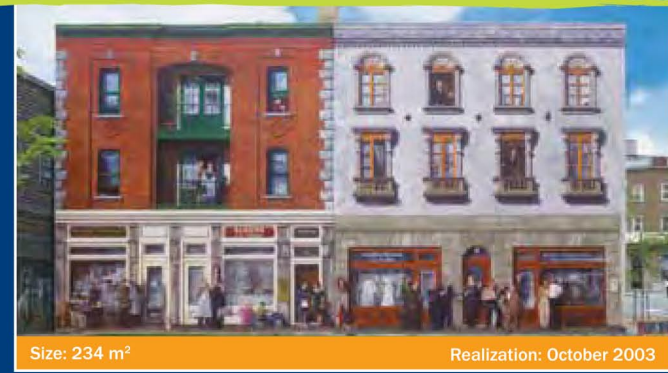


Size: 123 m<sup>2</sup> Realization: August 2002

This mural pays homage to the firefighters and police officers who have been working to safeguard Sherbrooke's citizens since 1852. The west wall of the building features a symbolic representation of the former headquarters with 25 characters depicted. The mural immortalizes the Firefighter for a Day event held in summer 1967, which was also the year that Percy Donahue retired after 55 years of loyal service as Sherbrooke's Fire Chief.

### Stop #11, King Street East

## Once Upon a Time in the East



Size: 234 m<sup>2</sup> Realization: October 2003

This mural is a slice of life from Sherbrooke's East Ward, now part of the Borough of Fleurimont. Located at the corner of Bowen Street South, this work presents a glimpse of urban life in this neighbourhood, highlighting the city's cultural and musical scene from the 1930s up to the '60s.

The Honourable John-Samuel Bourque, the Reverend Canon Biron and Louis Bilodeau are among the recognizable spectators listening to T-Bianc Richard play the violin. Dr. J.E. Noël, founder of the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital, is also depicted.

### Stop #12, Bowen Street South

## Progress in the East



Size: 198 m<sup>2</sup> Realization: August 2004

Located at the corner of King Street East, this mural illustrates nearby businesses, such as Pamphile Biron & Sons and Ressort Déziel. Among those portrayed are political personalities Stanislas Fortier, the first French-Canadian mayor of Sherbrooke, and William Bullock Ives, M.P. for Sherbrooke and federal minister.

A myriad of details depict the lives of folks at the end of the 19th century. It's the era of the tramway and the dawn of Sherbrooke as a manufacturing town, as 4890 arrives and the city welcomes emerging technologies: electricity, the telephone, the automobile, aviation, cinema, and daily newspapers, thus preparing itself for the dynamism of the century to come.

### Stop #5, Frontenac Street

## 50 Years of Looking at it Our Way



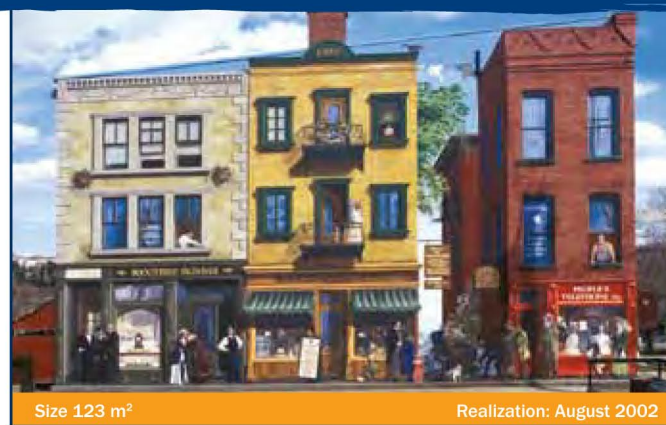
Size: 29 m<sup>2</sup> Realization: September 2006

On August 12, 2006, CHLT-TV (Channel 7) celebrated its 50 years of existence. It was Senator Jacob Nicol who got the ball rolling in 1954, when he obtained a license to operate a bilingual TV station at the corner of Frontenac and Dufferin streets in Sherbrooke.

Located directly opposite the Natural Science Museum, the mural depicts 30 noteworthy people from the Sherbrooke cultural scene of the past and present, assembled to celebrate the 50th anniversary. These artists and craftpeople are from the fields of painting, sculpture, handicrafting, architecture, music, theatre, and dance.

### Stop #6, Dufferin Street

## Sherbrooke's 2002 Bicentennial Mural



Size: 123 m<sup>2</sup> Realization: August 2002

The completion of a first trompe l'oeil-style historical mural did not go unnoticed in Sherbrooke. Depicting events in daily life, this fresco is a composite of reality and imagination. It portrays 23 characters and several animals at the lively corner of Commercial and Factory streets (today Dufferin and Frontenac). The scene is a moment frozen in time: a glimpse of life as it was at 2 o'clock in the beautiful afternoon of June 2, 1902.

### Stop #13, Bowen Street North

## Legends & Mena'sen



Size: 183 m<sup>2</sup> Realization: September 2010

This fresco mural is built around historical events and legends from the region. The First Nations open up the wall like the curtain of a theatre, letting us discover the characters reunited on the shores of the Saint-François River, in front of the solitary pine, one of Sherbrooke's greatest symbols. These characters represent several important men and women, historical events and legends from various eras of our history, some of them well before the city came to be known as Sherbrooke and other even before it was named Hyatt's Mill. Many of the pictured events can be found in minor details of this 20.72 metres (68 feet) wide and 8.83 metres (29 feet) high fresco mural. The creation of this mural took place between June 30 and September 29 and it has been inaugurated on October 22, 2010.

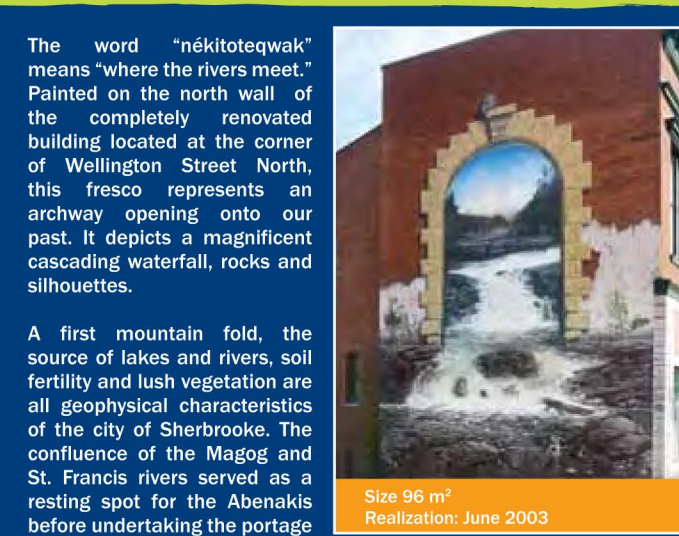


**M.U.R.I.R.S. (Urban Murals for the Revitalization of Buildings and Social Reconciliation)** is a non-profit organization founded in 1999 whose mission is to promote various milieus by creating artistic murals and working toward social solidarity. In close collaboration with the City of Sherbrooke and Destination Sherbrooke, M.U.R.I.R.S. has been adorning the walls of Downtown Sherbrooke since 2002, bringing to light the rich history of the city and solidifying its tourism potential.

Through the years, more than 30 artists and technicians from the Eastern Townships have put their touch on these collaborative works of art. The result of all of this hard work is a tremendous outdoor museum that allows visitors and citizens alike to discover Sherbrooke's rich and engaging history.

### Stop #7, Frontenac Street

## Nékitotegwak



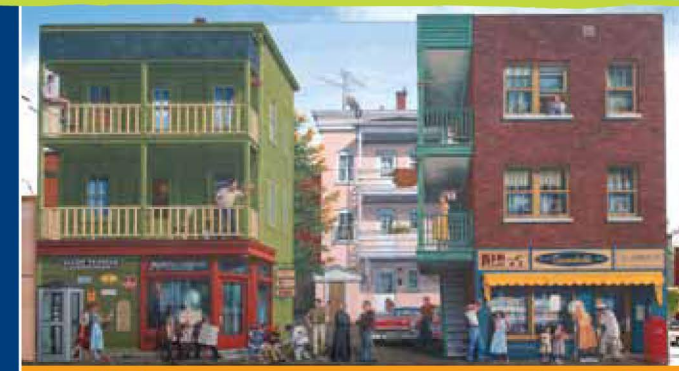
Size: 96 m<sup>2</sup> Realization: June 2003

The word "nékitotegwak" means "where the rivers meet." Painted on the north wall of the completely renovated building located at the corner of Wellington Street North, this fresco represents an archway opening onto our past. It depicts a magnificent cascading waterfall, rocks and silhouettes.

A first mountain fold, the source of lakes and rivers, soil fertility and lush vegetation are all geophysical characteristics of the city of Sherbrooke. The confluence of the Magog and St. Francis rivers served as a resting spot for the Abenakis before undertaking the portage climb around the Magog River's waterfall canyon on their journey to New England.

### Stop #8, Alexandre Street

## The Good Years



Size: 180 m<sup>2</sup> Realization: August 2005

Located on the north wall of the building, this Fridolin-style mural depicts everyday life in the sector of the city known as "Little Canada" on September 27, 1957. This work of art pays homage to the former working-class, south-central part of Sherbrooke where many families faced their share of hardships during this era.

Portrayed in the foreground of the fresco are former mayor Armand Nadeau, actor Jean Besré, teacher Brother Théode, and TV host Tante Margot. The local company Sherwood Drolet, which has supplied many National Hockey League players, such as Gerry Plamondon, with hockey sticks, is also depicted.

## Sherbrooke, Land of Fresco Murals.

With its 13 fresco murals, downtown Sherbrooke shines as a true outdoor art gallery. Created throughout the past ten years, each mural exposes a part of Sherbrooke's history. You will encounter those who left their mark on the development of the Queen of the Eastern Townships, from the arrival of the settlers to the booming industrialization of the city.

Fun for Children and Adults!

Sherbrooke's fresco murals can be enjoyed in many ways. Ask for the "Mémoire Vive" iPad tour and follow our virtual guide or take to the streets on your own either on foot, bicycle, motorcycle or even by car and discover an intimate local café, a refined restaurant, an impressive museum or a lively terrace. The fresco murals also act as a stage for the actors of the Tour de la cité "Par le chemin des fresques" as they take you back to the bustling Sherbrooke of the 50's in a guided theatrical tour. (Tour offered only in French)

The fresco murals tour is also enjoyable for children. Ask them to find the elf hidden on each of the fresco murals. Identify and count each of the animals and ladybugs playing hide and seek on the murals. Plenty of fun for both children and adults!

Head over to the Tourist Information Bureau (785, King Ouest Street) to begin this incredible journey that promises to take you to the heart of Sherbrooke's history.

Enjoy your discoveries!

