

# Big Country Art Painted On Silos

The Canadian federal government paid \$150,000 to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a big way, by hiring artists to paint murals on 30 to 80-ft. tall silos.

Jennifer Larocque proposed the idea for Ontario's Prescott-Russell region after seeing a graffiti-covered castle in Scotland.

"I thought silos could be an amazing canvas for artists and celebrate what the region is all about. It's a perfect way to celebrate the area and bring in art and create a unique experience," she explains.

She credits teamwork from local community members, organizations and ASHOP, an international urban art agency that she hired as the artistic co-producer.

Though the artists specialize in graffiti and street art, they are experienced in painting high and large-scale projects.

"Every artist worked differently," Larocque says. "The young farmer was based on a photo and spray painted because of the wires on the outside (of the silo). The young girl with the eagle was done by a grid. Another team projected."

Because silos are round, projecting the image wasn't without challenge, but all the artists figured out how to work with their 4,000-sq. ft. "dimensional canvas."

ASHOP thoroughly washed the concrete silos and supplied the artists with high quality exterior paints. Artists were paid \$8,000/silo for the completion of the work within a maximum of 4 weeks, including time for collaborative planning with silo owners and local artists who led workshops with the community on the themes to be depicted.

They painted by grid and learned to make some details, such as the cattaills, bigger so they could be seen from different angles. They also learned to stand back often, either

by backing up the boom lift they painted from, or with one of them going down to the ground and walking away, then calling with a cellphone directing the painter up on the silo.

The 60-ft. height didn't bother them, but the wind took them by surprise.

"Being on farmland at 4 or 5 stories high on windy days made for difficult painting. If you dropped anything, it was long gone," says Lacey Jane, one of the painters.

By the end of June, five silos were completed and information disseminated about their locations (between Montreal and Ottawa). Some are on working farms, including a former dairy farm that now raises rabbits, a horse farm, an agritourism farm, and a vineyard. One of the silos is at a working dairy farm near an ag-related business - a cheese co-op.

Sites were selected for highway accessibility and the willingness of property owners to welcome visitors.

"Producers are loving the opportunity to meet people from across Canada, the States, and Europe," Larocque says. The project has had a definite economic benefit for some, she adds. Conservative estimates are 3,000 visitors in the first two months, in addition to the more than 22,000 daily commuters who see the silos.

Check out the website for more information about the artists, silos and where they are located.

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To celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the federal government hired artists to paint murals on 30 to 80-ft. tall silos. Young farmer (left) was spray painted, while the girl with eagle was painted by using a grid.

## Guests Appreciate Comfy Outhouse

A "royal flush" at the Marc Cantin and Jocelyne Bain summer cottage in Gogama, Ont., has nothing to do with poker. It's all about the fancy "outhouse" Marc built using mostly recycled materials.

"What's really nice is that it never smells," Jocelyne says. "Nothing is disgusting about it."

The couple entertains many guests at their cottage on Minisinakwa Lake and needed an extra bathroom to accommodate everyone. The 6 by 8-ft. bathroom includes a light, counter, sink, and linen cabinet. All were repurposed from renovations or donated from friends. The walls, roof, door and window are also made of used materials, and the base of

the building is an old dock.

"My husband is a recycler - short for junk collector," Bain says. "Everything is used except for the floor and the toilet. It is a camper toilet and uses only two cups of water to flush. The water comes to the outhouse through a garden hose, which pumps from the lake. The remains go into a buried 45-gal. drum, which is lined with stone."

It's worked out well, says Bain, who came up with the name "Royal Flush" for the fancy privy.

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Mark Cantin and Jocelyne Bain entertain many guests at their lake cottage. They built this extra bathroom to accommodate everyone, using mostly recycled materials.

## Built-To-Last Modern "Shepherd Camps"

Shepherd wagons have always been designed to last a long time - from the old wooden wagons in the 1800's to steel models that came out in the 1940's.

"We want our 'camps' to last for 100 years," says Dale Lewis, owner of Western Range Camps, based in Mt. Pleasant, Utah. The mobile units are called camps because they were originally designed to be set up as a camp - a home away from home that could move to different locations as flocks or herds were moved.

Though designed in the familiar Conestoga wagon style long used by shearherders, the "camps" are also popular with many other customers.

"These are just solid - the ultimate hunting lodge on wheels," Lewis says. "They include wood-burning stoves and are insulated."

Several Range Camp customers use

them like a tiny house and live in them all winter or as part of a B&B. Sportsmen and RV enthusiasts use them for traveling and camping.

The camps can be heated with wood or propane and lighted with solar or propane. Bathroom options include composting and portapotty toilets, and indoor and outdoor showers.

Each camp is custom-made within about 4 mos., Lewis says, with options that include air conditioning and entertainment packages.

With clever storage areas and multiple sleeping areas, the camps are multipurpose. Sizes range from 17 to 30 ft. (including the hitch) and prices start at about \$25,000.

Western Range Camps (formerly Timberline Range Camps) has made many upgrades in the past year and has had steady sales. The camps have been sold all across



"Shepherd camps" are designed in the familiar Conestoga wagon style used by shearherders, but are also popular for recreational use.

the country including customers in Alabama, Alaska and Hawaii. Lewis says the company can deliver camps or customers can pick them up.

Check out the models, floor plans and

options at the company's website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Western Range Camps, 1145 S. Blackhawk Rd., Mt. Pleasant, Utah 84647 (ph 435 462-5300; www.wrcamps.com).