

A decorative border of blue birds, possibly swallows, arranged in a repeating pattern around the perimeter of the page. The birds are facing right and are spaced evenly along the top, bottom, and sides.

CULTURAL MOMENT

Jones Baseline Survey Mural

Corner of Charles and George St. Arthur, ON

This is a replica of the newly erected Jones Baseline Survey Mural, which depicts the survey crew reaching the banks of the Conestogo River, near present day Arthur, October 17, 1792. The baseline is important, as it forms the basis of the Six Nations grant and serves as the boundary for many nearby townships. The mural also displays the problems encountered by Jones and his party of 13, seven of whom were native people, from black bears to mosquitoes to rattlesnakes, when they surveyed from Burlington Bay all the way to near Arthur (at the Conestogo River).

This history was brought to life by the latest efforts of The Arthur and District Historical Society, although it took many people to put together. Representatives from both of the local and the Wellington County historical societies, as well as, the Wellington County Museum and Archives, and the Woodland Cultural Centre worked on collecting information for it. Cliff Smith, a Mount Forest resident, was the chosen artist to bring the story to life. Smith came across a sculpture of Jones in Stoney Creek that he used as a visual start to the mural. He also found that once the survey crew arrived in Arthur, they realized they were not at the source of the intended destination of the Grand River. A disagreement then arose between one of the natives and the surveyor, which is why the mural depicts a native pointing in one direction and the surveyor pointing in the other. The animals portrayed in the mural also had a great impact on the crew.

It's documented that roughly 400-700 rattlesnakes were killed between Lake Ontario and Arthur during the work. The chains which are depicted along the top and bottom of the mural are referred to as a Gunter's chain, which was used at that time for surveying.