

# RED DRESS productions

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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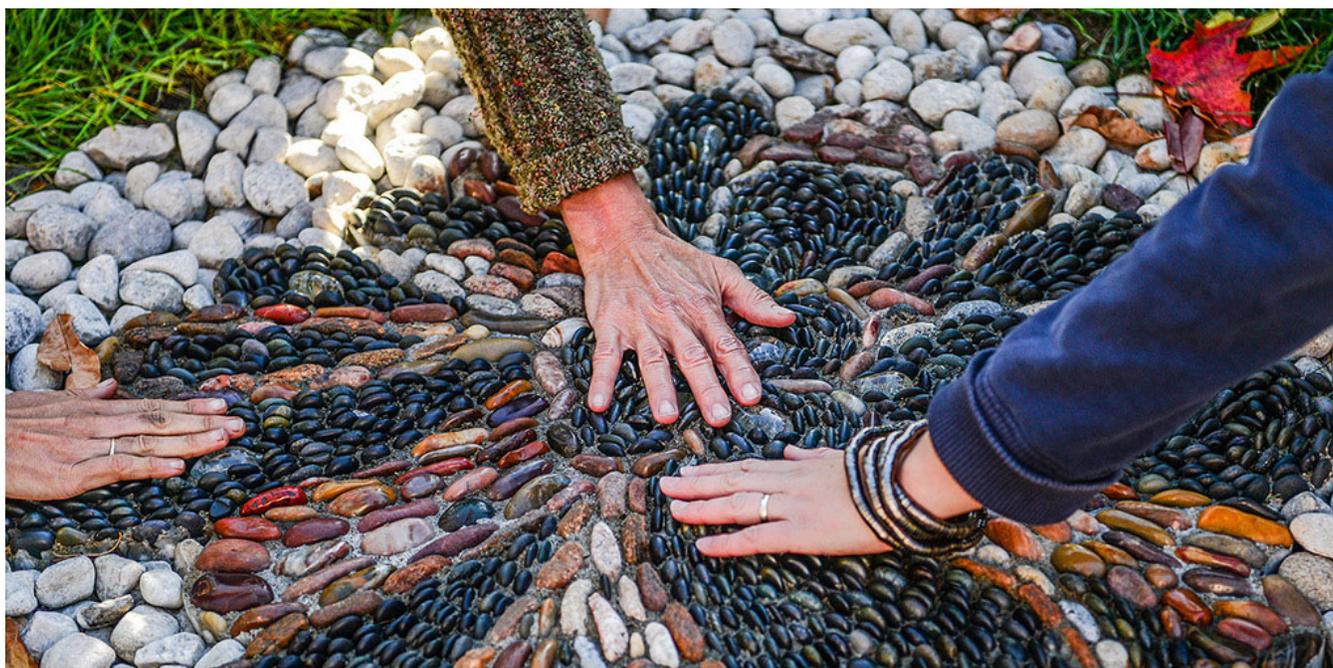
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<https://reddressproductions.org/media>

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## Ontario communities recognize sexual trauma through public art making

Residents of North Bay, Carleton Place, Brantford, and Peterborough  
will create 4 monuments to honour survivors of sexual violence



What began as a request by one sexual assault centre in rural Ontario has evolved into a quest to dignify the experiences and visibility of survivors across the province. From **February 28 to March 30, 2019**, Toronto's community arts non-profit **Red Dress Productions** will lead the **Countdown Public Art Legacy Project** — a series of **pebble mosaic workshops** to create **monuments that honour survivors of sexual violence**.

In collaboration with **Amelia Rising Sexual Assault Centre of Nipissing**, **Lanark County Interval House**, the **Sexual Assault Centre of Brant**, **Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre**, and **Nogojwanong Friendship Centre**, the public works will be developed and built with the participation of several hundred residents in North Bay, Carleton Place, Brantford, and Peterborough, Ontario.

Initiated by the **Women's Sexual Assault Centre of Renfrew County** (WSAC) in 2014, and led by Red Dress Productions in 2016, the initial impetus was to create a work to mark the centre's 25th anniversary. Along with the support of **Ottawa Valley Creative Arts Open Studio** (OVCAOS) — and created in collaboration with **400 residents** — four mosaics were realized in Eganville, Killaloe, Pembroke, and Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, Ontario.

Three years later, in 2019, there is much anticipation for the four new works, as collaborating centres recognize the project's deep significance. "Having a monument for learning about and giving respect to survivors of sexual violence is extremely important to our community because it helps us to inspire empathy and build resilience. This monument will give us a place to mourn, to celebrate, to reflect, and to take action," explains **Lisa Clarke**, interim executive director of the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre in Peterborough.

"I hope that through this monument, we will build community understanding of the issues facing survivors of sexual violence, including missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people, as well as survivors of childhood sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, sexual assault and harassment, and intimate partner violence.

"This monument might be a place where survivors name their abuse and reach out for help. This monument might be a place where survivors lay their abuse to rest," Clarke affirms. "What I know for sure is that this monument will be a place where we can gather in solidarity, and that connectedness builds our strength."

Today, the Countdown Public Art Legacy Project flourishes, with continued partnerships with WSAC and OVCAOS, and increasing interest from front-line workers in support centres throughout the province. Red Dress Productions hopes to extend the project over the next three years.

The Countdown Public Art Legacy Project's **pebble mosaic workshops are free**, open to all, and are wheelchair accessible.

Additional accommodation requests can be made by contacting Andy Trull at [arts@ov-caos.org](mailto:arts@ov-caos.org).

The four mosaics will be permanently installed and **unveiled throughout the spring and summer** months this year.

## Workshop dates and locations



February 28 – March 2, 2019

**Amelia Rising Sexual Assault Centre  
of Nipissing**

Thurs Feb 28, 4–8 p.m.  
Fri Mar 1, 12–4 p.m.  
Sat Mar 2, 1–5 p.m.

101 Worthington Street East  
Unit #11 (lower level)  
North Bay, Ontario  
(705) 840-2403  
[info@ameliarising.ca](mailto:info@ameliarising.ca)

March 6 – 8, 2019

**Lanark County Interval House**

Wed Mar 6, 12–4 p.m.  
Thurs Mar 7, 4–8 p.m.  
Fri Mar 8, 1–5 p.m.

All Nations Church  
39 Bridge Street  
Carleton Place, Ontario  
(613) 257-3469  
[info@lcih.com](mailto:info@lcih.com)

March 21 – 23, 2019

**Sexual Assault Centre of Brant**

Thurs Mar 21, 4–8 p.m.  
Fri Mar 22, 12–4 p.m.  
Sat Mar 23, 1–5 p.m.

Branford & District Labour Centre  
1100 Clarence Street South  
Brantford, Ontario  
(519) 751-1164  
[sexualassaultcentre@sacbrant.ca](mailto:sexualassaultcentre@sacbrant.ca)

March 28 – 30, 2019

**Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre**

Thurs Mar 28, 4–8 p.m.  
Fri Mar 29, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

150 King Street, 3rd Floor

**Nogojwanong Friendship Centre**

Sat Mar 30, 2:30–6:30 p.m.

580 Cameron Street  
Peterborough, Ontario  
(705) 748-5901  
[lhaacke@kawarthasac.ca](mailto:lhaacke@kawarthasac.ca)

## About Red Dress Productions

**Red Dress Productions** is a Toronto non-profit that creates interdisciplinary, community-engaged, public art projects. Founded in 2004, the organization is led by **Anna Camilleri**, an artist and award-winning novelist, and **Tristan R. Whiston**, a theatre director, dramaturge, and performer. Their mission is to produce work that elicits dialogue across difference, to support self-presentation in neighbourhoods impeded by inequity, to create inclusive art-making activities with people of diverse abilities, identities, and experiences, and to mentor equity-seeking emerging artists. Within 15 years, they have created over 25 works in collaboration with over 10,000 community members. Red Dress Productions makes art with people, transforms public spaces, and empowers communities.

## Links

Visit Red Dress Productions' website and social media links to learn more:

- Website:** <https://reddressproductions.org>
- Press materials: <https://reddressproductions.org/media>
- Photos: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmApF9ij>  
Videos: <https://vimeo.com/album/5746943>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reddressproductions>  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/reddressprod>

## Funders and supporters

The Countdown Public Art Legacy Project is funded by It's Never Okay: Ontario's Gender-based Violence Strategy (Ontario Arts Council), the Toronto Arts Council, and is generously supported by MorenaMedia, Ottawa Valley Creative Arts Open Studio, and the Women's Sexual Assault Centre of Renfrew County.

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