

Renfrew County initiative extended across the province

Four new communities chosen for public art process



KILLALOE — About a dozen people gathered in Killaloe on November 25 to raise the public conversation about sexual violence.

It was part of the Countdown Public Art Legacy Project that took place in 2016 in four communities in Renfrew County in Eganville, Killaloe, Pikwakanagan and Pembroke to honour the survivors of sexual violence.

During that public art process hundreds of people participated.

The artwork was a means to open a public conversation about sexual violence and the toll that it takes upon individual lives and our whole communities.

Anna Camilleri of Red Dress Productions, who initiated the first project, said the workshop in Killaloe stemmed from people's feedback about the 2016 monuments. People wanted the project to continue, the monuments should be the foundation for further public conversations across the province.

The new locations include North Bay, Brantford, Peterborough and Carleton Place.

Camilleri said the most of the original personnel will be involved in carrying the conversation further.

In this expansion, Red Dress Productions are teaming up again with the Ottawa Valley Creative Arts Open Studios and the Women's Sexual Assault Centre of Renfrew County.

The province is funding the new project.

The people gathered in Killaloe on November 25 to create connections among the communities.

"We wanted to build a bridge between contributors to the project in Renfrew County and all of the folks that we're going to meet in North Bay, Lanark County, Peterborough and Brantford," Camilleri said.

The groups went through a series of writing exercises, which were transferred onto postcards and into voice recordings.

"The recordings will form a component of a digital story map the organizers are creating to accompany the monuments. The digital story map is where you will be able to click to see the artwork, photographs from the process and hear recordings from some of the places," Camilleri said.

It is anticipated the four new monuments will be completed in 2019.

In the meanwhile the monuments in Renfrew County remain focal points for reflection, commemoration and conversation.