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TO OMB OVER NEW MAP | **PAGE 5**



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Artists take over museum grounds, buildings in unique Land|Slide exhibit/**Page 15**

Mega art project takes over museum grounds

Land|Slide: Possible Futures features car horn orchestra, 3D projections and more

BY AMANDA PERSICO
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Markham Museum's 25 acres will be transformed into a large-scale public art exhibition where past and future merge.

The exhibition, Land|Slide: Possible Futures, runs to Oct. 14 and features 35 art installations with more than 30 national and international artists exploring themes of multiculturalism, sustainability and community in a world of transitions.

The museum's more than 80,000 historical artifacts as well as 30 pioneer buildings dating back to the 1820s will serve as a backdrop for artists to explore how the past and future collide while responding to the need for balance between ecology and economy, farming and development, history and diversity.

"Markham is an example of a new city," project lead and chief curator, Janine Marchessault said. "This city is dealing with and trying to balance greenbelt issues, green-space, development and diversity. How that all fits together is an image of a 21st century space."

Markham bills itself as Canada's high-tech capital while being one of the most diverse municipalities in the country. There's also the city's strong sustainability plan that includes and prioritizes cultural sustainability, Ms Marchessault added.

"This ecology and history makes Markham the ideal location to spark a collective conversation around the history of the land, the people that dwell in it and its possible futures."

One installation explores Markham's greenspace through the eyes of her childhood.

Former Markham resident Jennie Suddick' installation, Stomping Ground, includes interactive displays with the focus on how local residents interact with nature.

The first display is an interactive web-based documentary where Ms Suddick interviewed local residents, including former city councillors and asked them to relay a favourite memory of places in Markham.

From those stories, Ms Suddick created a trail map of hidden areas for patrons to discover again as adults.

She also recreated her teenage bedroom, complete with posters and rebellious writing on the walls.

Since she was an only child, her parents didn't need the space in the Unionville home so the brightly painted bedroom was left intact for more than a decade.

"Everyone wants to make their mark on the environment," she said. "Children play outside to find something to conquer, but they don't understand what that is. A bedroom is a tangible place to make yours, literally claim it as your own."

Her bedroom served as an archive of her teenage life.

"The museum is one history of the town," Ms Marchessault said. "People living here only multiply



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

The Markham Museum's 25 acres of open space and 30 pioneer buildings will be the staging area for 35 art installations, including one by Jennie Suddick (left) seen here with exhibition curator Janine Marchessault.

the number of histories. This project is all about layering memories and experiences while living in the future. It is a study of place in a process of change."

Displays include digitized diaries, 3D projections and augmented reality, a 500-metre edible flower river and a car horn orchestra.

For more information, visit land-slide-possiblefutures.com