

BREWERY MURAL A SALUTE TO LOCAL HISTORY

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The Chicken Man, an Apricot Astronaut and the Barber Dynamo walk into a bar. The bartender goes "Don't I know you from somewhere?"

There's not really a joke here, but all three are part of a new mural celebrating Halton Hills history at Furnace Room Brewery.

While the brewery's taproom was closed during the early stages of the pandemic, work began to revamp the seating area, including a massive mural representing Furnace Room's beers and local history.

Painting the mural took local artist, Lisa Cafaro, nearly 200 hours to complete.

"I didn't expect it would take that long, but each little piece is its own work of art," she said.

A former Georgetown resident, Cafaro now lives in Caledon, and was commissioned to complete the mural designed by South African artist, Ingrid Nuss.

"The painting is the fun part," Cafaro said, who complete the mural, mostly working alone.

Once designed, scaffolding was erected and she set to work tracing the design from a projection.

Though it's not her design, Cafaro had opportunities to work in her own additions: graffiti on the paper mill names staff from the brewery, while a tiny astronaut on the moon was a late addition added to represent

Furnace Rooms' Apricot Astronaut beer.

"We didn't anticipate how amazing the interaction would be," Olga de Wid, in-house designer for Furnace Room.

For locals, each of Furnace Room brewery's beers represents a piece of Halton Hill's history.

"When you're growing a business like this, you need to eventually appeal to a wider audience," de Wid said, adding that Furnace Room's products are now in over 150 LCBOs across the province.

While the history would remain, the designs have undergone a re-design.

"It pops on the shelf, and the stories are interesting enough for people to want to try it," she said.



Bryan Myers/TorStar

Olga de Wid (left) and Lisa Cafaro, who was commissioned to paint the mural at Furnace Room Brewing's tap room in Georgetown. The mural represents each of the brewery's beers which, in turn, represent pieces of Halton Hills' history.

But the taproom has also undergone a transformation.

"We wanted to create a space that was an experience," de Wid said.

The patio and tap room are now open, observing COVID-19 safety protocols.

One of the subtle changes, is the departure of screen on the second-floor sitting area.

"When there's a TV screen it changes the vibe," she said. "We anticipated being able to do functions and events going forward, but

we're not sure when that is going to happen."

Currently, the tap room and patio are open for business, though growler re-fills are off-line. Furnace Room's brews are also available at the LCBO and in select grocery stores.



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