



Title: The Luggage Project

Year: 2008

Artist: Ernest Daetwyler

Medium: Indiana limestone; bronze

Location: Victoria Park, Gaukel Street entrance
Kitchener, ON

Acquisition Method: Public Art (1%)

The City of Kitchener is one of the most diverse and multicultural cities in Canada, welcoming immigrants from all over the world. The local history shows a steady stream of newcomers starting in the 18th century with the arrival of German and Scottish settlers. Voyage and the perspective of the traveler is very much a part of the Canadian experience, in particular Kitchener's identity, and inspired me to use luggage as a symbol. Luggage represents belongings on the move and all the knowledge, skills and hopes migrants bring with them.

Eight naturalistically carved suitcases, representing different time periods in our past, are placed along the pathways in Victoria Park. The handles and labels of the luggage are cast in bronze. Each label carries a message from Kitchener residents of different cultural backgrounds saying why they chose Kitchener as the city to live in. Additional labels in bronze are placed in unexpected ways throughout the park. They may be found on the ground, on a rock, on a bench or other locations.

-Ernest Daetwyler, 2008