



RON ALBERTSON, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Artist Grace Reynolds in front her mural across from Gage Park on Main St. East. She spent weeks completing the work.

## Mother Seuss is the Offspring of local artist

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Hamilton artist Grace Reynolds has unveiled her biggest masterpiece yet, a 48-foot long mural alongside a local business across from Gage Park.

The former Westdale student is currently in her second year at Ontario's College of Art and Design where she is majoring in painting and drawing.

Over the summer, she was in between jobs when family friends

gave her an opportunity of a lifetime. They told her they wanted the side of their business to look really pretty. She couldn't say yes fast enough.

"I was very, very flattered and it was incredibly intimidating. I've never done anything that big before but it was a lot of fun," said Reynolds, 19.

For about five or six weeks beginning in July, Reynolds transformed the garage bay at Langton Mechanical Systems and Services on Main Street East into her art studio. She worked on the piece

Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. where she painted on 10-by-4 foot pieces of plywood before they were eventually mounted onto the wall.

Owners Lou and Penny Ulbinas didn't exactly know what they wanted so they let Reynolds work her magic. She came up with four or five early drawings to see what they preferred. Lou picked the sketch with a floral tone because he thought it mimicked the feel of Gage Park.

Reynolds named the piece The Offspring.

"The first words that came out of (my brother's) mouth when he saw it was it looks like a cross between Mother Nature and Dr. Seuss. That kind of stuck with me ... (this is) what would happen if Mother Nature and Doctor Seuss got together," Reynolds said.

The Offspring was unveiled Friday night at a wine and cheese reception where many of her friends and family saw it for the first time. The feedback has been very positive and Reynolds has already received offers to do more paintings. "It certainly has had a lot of pos-

itive comments from people who have dropped into our business and from the community around our business," said Penny Ulbinas.

She and her husband own Langton Mechanical. They purchased it in 2008 when it was a contaminated soil site so they had to renovate it and do some landscaping. They always considered having some type of art on their property.

"Anywhere you see murals that have been done in the community they are always pretty breathtaking," Ulbinas said.