



Chantal Rousseau  
Bioregional Love

VALLEY PARK BRANCH  
**MURAL PROJECT**





## Chantal Rousseau *Bioregional Love*

*Bioregional Love* is a joyous celebration of the natural world surrounding the Valley Park Branch Library. It features colourful watercolours of bird, amphibian, reptile, insect, and plant life found within the Upper Stoney Creek ecosystem.

**Birds for all seasons:** highlights common species that can be seen around the library branch at different times of the year. Depicted are a Common Nighthawk, Dark-eyed Junco, Hooded Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Song Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker\*, Barn Swallow, Indigo Bunting, American Crow, American Kestrel, Hooded Warbler, and Black-crowned Night Heron.

**Amphibians and reptiles.** Amphibians are considered an indicator species, as their ability to thrive, or not, reflects the health of their ecosystem. Depicted are species indigenous to Ontario and common to the Hamilton region, featuring a Gray Treefrog, Eastern Milk Snake\*, Midland Painted Turtle, Eastern American Toad, Eastern Garter Snake, and Northern Map Turtle\*.

**Pollinators and native plants:** features butterflies and native plants that they depend on. Depicted are species indigenous to Ontario and common to the Hamilton region, an Eastern Tiger

## VALLEY PARK BRANCH MURAL PROJECT

Swallowtail on Wild Bergamot, Great Spangled Fritillary, Northern Pearly Eye, Red Admiral, Monarch\* on a Pale Purple Coneflower, Mourning Cloak, Orange Sulphur, and Eastern Tailed Blue.

Climate change, urban development, habitat removal, and invasive species have an impact on biodiversity. By displaying local species, including species of Special Concern (\*), this project highlights the importance of conservation measures to ensure their survival. By featuring butterflies and native plants, the project is also inspired by the Pollinator Paradise Project, a local initiative that promotes creating a corridor of native plant species that provide food and shelter for pollinators.

*Bioregional Love* celebrates the local geographic environment by showcasing the biodiversity of Upper Stoney Creek while tying into local conservation initiatives. The physical context of the library is reflected by depicting species that can be seen in the area around the library branch. The mural is welcoming and inviting to local residents and visitors through a sense of movement, colour, and beauty, created by realistic watercolours.